



Thatcher calls for curbs on gazumping

Estate agents warned that 'law may change'

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister yesterday told estate agents to put their house in order by bringing in rules to stamp out gazumping.

She held out the threat that if they failed to come up with a satisfactory voluntary code of practice the Government could impose one.

WIN £130,000

Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator

Three people shared the daily prize yesterday (see page 3), so the Portfolio Accumulator stands at £130,000.

IN PART

Suter in share deal inquiry

An inquiry into share dealing in three companies linked to Suter, the industrial conglomerate, is being conducted by Department of Trade and Industry inspectors.

Title play

Lloyd Honeyghan, of Bournemouth, will adopt a new style when he defends his world welterweight boxing title in Atlantic City tonight.

Ticket report

A report from the Fair Trading Department of Liverpool City Council has criticised the system of allocating FA Cup final tickets.

Degree results

Glasgow University degrees will be published tomorrow. University of Wales degrees and Oxford English results appear today.

TIMES FOCUS

Chelmsford, host to the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh today for celebrations of 100 years as a borough, is hoping to be granted city status says a Special Report... Pages 28, 29

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Table with 2 columns: Category and Page Number. Includes Home News, Overseas, Business, Sport, Arts, Births, marriages, deaths, etc.

Ashdown romps home in SLD leadership race



Mr Ashdown jubilantly hugging his wife, Jane, outside SLD headquarters in Westminster yesterday after his victory in the party's leadership election. (Photograph: Graham Wood)

No deals with Labour Party or Owenites

By Richard Ford, Political Correspondent

Mr Paddy Ashdown yesterday won an overwhelming victory to be elected the first leader of the Social and Liberal Democrats, and immediately ruled out future pacts with Labour or the Owenites.

Mr Ashdown, with his wife Jane, Mr David Steel, the former joint leader, and Mr Beith beside him, declared: "Our first priority must be to look beyond the internal politics of our party to the concerns of our nation."

VOTES CAST table showing results for Paddy Ashdown, Ian Wigglesworth, Des Wilson, and Gwynoro Jones.

Paddy Ashdown... 14 Parliamentary sketch... 20

After the result was announced, Mr Beith offered his support to the new leader with words reflecting that a segment of the party remains to be convinced about the direction in which Mr Ashdown wishes to go.

SAS men to give evidence in Gibraltar

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

The Government will announce today that the SAS men who shot and killed three IRA terrorists in Gibraltar earlier this year will give evidence at the inquest there in September.

Government wished to cooperate with the Gibraltar coroner as fully as possible. However, it was said that the safety of the men was the first priority, and that if there were any developments between now and September which could be seen as posing any danger to them the Government would reconsider the situation.

Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, told the Commons yesterday that the inquest would "thoroughly examine" the deaths. He told Mr Kevin McNamara, the shadow Northern Ireland secretary, that points about the shootings should not be "handed across the floor" of the Commons.

Gibraltar incident were not in dispute - "that these people were terrorists and they were planning the most brutal and dastardly outrage in the history of the IRA".

His ruling was widely supported in legal and Government circles in Gibraltar and he is reluctant to amend it in any way. He made it clear, however, that he would consider any further requests in writing.

Lawson's inflation admission

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, conceded yesterday that inflation would move higher for the rest of this year and the first half of next year.

De Savary secures 10% TV-am stake

By Rodney Hobson

Mr Peter de Savary, the millionaire entrepreneur and yachtsman, is to be invited to join the board of TV-am after his LandLeisure company bought a 10 per cent stake in the independent breakfast-time station yesterday.

MPs reject health service revolution

By Martin Fletcher and Jill Sherman

A Conservative controlled committee of MPs yesterday launched a pre-emptive strike against the Prime Minister's review of the National Health Service by rejecting any revolutionary changes.

Transplant son returns his father's gift of life

By Andrew Morgan and Thomson Prentice

A man who gave bone marrow to help cure his son of leukaemia has now received an identical transplant from the boy, after contracting the disease himself.

marrow transplants from blood relatives are the most successful, and most common. Mr Lack, from Emsworth, Hampshire, had no hesitation in volunteering to help his son.

Stuart has given me the gift of life. We have always been close; this has made us even closer. "I was proud to help him when he needed me and I just thank God that he could do the same for me."

Advertisement for Famous Grouse whisky featuring a photograph of a grouse and a bottle of whisky.

NEWS ROUNDUP

Little change in Opren damages

Most of the 40 alleged victims of the banned arthritis drug Opren who sought to challenge the average sums of £2,000 each offered by the drug's manufacturers...

Yesterday Mr Justice Hirst said he had upheld the assessors' awards in most of the 40 cases he had so far dealt with under the court arbitration scheme...

Claimants, who were offered an average of £2,000 each under the settlement, qualified for compensation if their injuries had been attributed by a doctor to the taking of Opren...

Mr Justice Hirst said that most of the claimants who had taken up the scheme claimed during the privately held proceedings that Opren was to blame for their often very serious medical condition...

"I have no doubt that each of these plaintiffs, many of whom are elderly and in bad health, truly believes that there is a connection, but unfortunately in each such case the evidence fell far short of satisfying me that this belief was well-founded", he said...

Blood service changes

The Government last night announced new management arrangements for blood transfusion services in England and Wales to ensure adequate supplies and a more cost effective service...

Seamen get HQ back

Three Court of Appeal judges refused yesterday to release the National Union of Seamen from its three-week period of "probation" but said Mr Sam McCluskie and his officials could return to their south London headquarters to prepare for the time when they regained control of their assets...

All-day opening date

All-day opening for public houses and clubs in England and Wales will become legal from August 22, the Government announced last night.

The new Licensing Act means public houses will be able to serve alcohol from 11am to 11pm from Mondays to Saturdays. Courts will have new powers to restrict individual premises if there are problems...

Lawyers in Brent talks

Lawyers were last night negotiating the future of Brent council's social services director, Mr David Divine, after a council meeting voted to reinstate him...

Killer jailed again

A convicted child killer who was freed on licence from prison was jailed for life at Birmingham Crown Court yesterday for a knife attack on a girl...

Solicitors 'should declare interest on holdings'

By Frances Gibb Legal Affairs Correspondent

Statutory rules to oblige solicitors to account to clients for all interest earned on money held on their behalf are being called for by the Law Society...

The Law Society, Mr Lionel Lightman, wants solicitors to be liable to account for interest earned on money held by them as stakeholders - which is estimated to account for nearly half the interest earned by solicitors on clients' funds...

He also calls on the Law Society to relax its rules by which clients are compensated for loss or hardship as a result of dishonesty by a solicitor or a staff member...

not normally pay out in a dishonest claim unless there has been a criminal conviction or dishonesty is the only explanation...

Mr Lightman, who monitors the way the Solicitors' Complaints Bureau handles complaints, makes his comments at a time of rising complaints against solicitors...

He has taken up the matter of interest on clients' money after a firm of solicitors failed to pay £2,000 in interest to a client because of a "misunderstanding" of the rules...

The firm of solicitors, which he does not name, has since refused to comply with the Law Society's request to see if, as a result of the same misunderstanding, other clients may similarly have been

"wrongly denied interest", he says.

Although the Law Society has taken steps to explain to solicitors and the public how the interest rules work, these are "unnecessarily complex as well as being imprecise and could give rise to misunderstanding".

Mr Lightman believes it is not right that enforcement of the rules should be left solely to clients. He has raised the matter with the Law Society which proposed certain rule changes...

But he says these changes are not satisfactory: they would be complex, and make it "more difficult" for clients to know when they are entitled to interest under the rules, he says.

Furthermore the rules "do not require the solicitors to account when sums of money over £10,000 are held for less than one week".

Mr Lightman proposed to the Law Society amending the rules so

that they would be obliged to account to clients for all interest earned on amounts over £10. He also wanted checks to be made as part of the annual audit of solicitors' client accounts to ensure interest had been properly paid.

He calls for simple rules to be drawn up so that solicitors and clients are in no doubt of their duties and rights. They should be backed by appropriate monitoring and enforcement. These rules should also apply to money held by solicitors as trustees or as stakeholders at present solicitors do not have to account for interest earned on money held by them as stakeholders which is estimated to account for nearly half the interest earned on clients' funds.

If there is a minimum cut off point, it should be clear, Mr Lightman remains to be convinced that £10 would be impracticable.

Elsewhere in his report, Mr Lightman recommends a substantial payment by the Law Society to a complainant wrongly committed to prison for contempt of court and lost her sole asset, a valuable flat in the West End of London...

In 1987, Mr Lightman received more than 450 representations, including complaints alleging unsatisfactory advice, delay, and overcharging. He issued 174 individual reports. In 40 he criticized the way the Solicitors' Complaints Bureau handled the complaint but did not disagree with its final decision. In six cases he recommended further action.

19th annual report of the Law Society 1987, HOC 626 (Stationery Office, £3.50p).

'100 schools will opt out within next two years'

By Douglas Broom, Education Reporter

Every education authority in England and Wales will have lost control of at least one of its schools within the next two years, the chairman of the new Grant Maintained Schools Trust predicted yesterday.

Mr Steven Norris said that in the few weeks that the Trust had been running it had already received 80 enquiries from schools interested in pulling out of local council control.

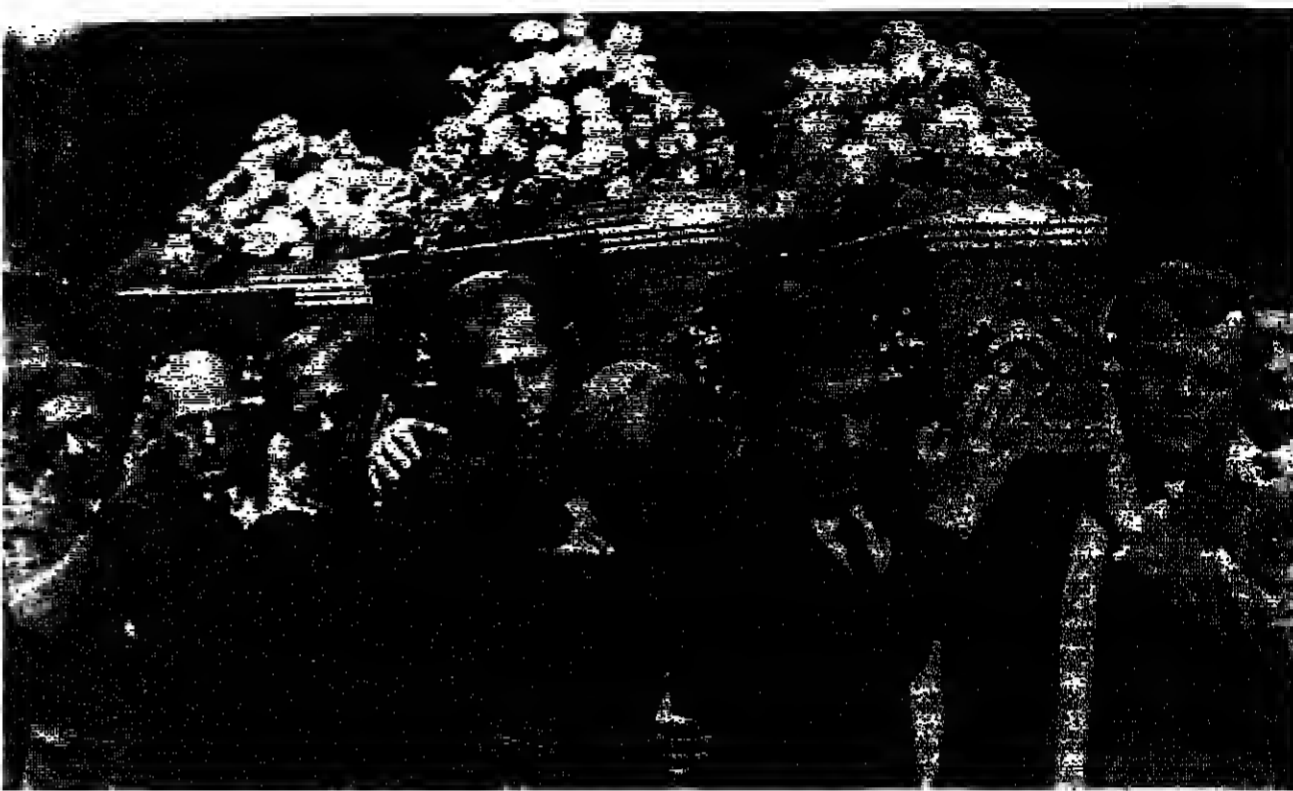
Under the Education Reform Bill, which becomes an Act today, state schools in England and Wales will be allowed to apply for Grant Maintained status, giving them freedom from local authority control and direct funding from Whitehall.

Speaking at the trust's official launch in London yesterday, Mr Norris said: "I would be disappointed if we did not have at least 100 current applications for Grant Maintained Status within the next two years."

The prediction came as Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education, was warned that his plans for parent power would band schools over to the control of the "middle class intelligentsia" rather than ordinary people.

Mr Peter Dawson, general secretary of the non-striking Professional Association of Teachers, told his union's

Town mourns murdered family



Burden of grief: Relatives and friends bearing the bodies of Robin, Maureen and David Hanna in Hillsborough yesterday.

By Peter Davenport

It was not so much the words of condemnation that moved those gathered to mourn the Hanna family yesterday, it was more the simple descriptions of three innocent victims of another IRA outrage.

The rector of Hillsborough Parish church, outside Belfast, said Robin and Maureen Hanna, both aged 44, were "hardworking, cheerful and generous, their house and hearts always open".

Their son David, aged six, was "a little chatterbox who loved to sing".

that destroyed their jeep was intended to kill Mr Justice Ian Higgins, a Northern Ireland judge, who had been on the same flight with his wife and daughter.

The church was full yesterday and the service was relayed to those who stood in the rain outside. Among the mourners were Peter Hanna, aged 17 and his sister Pauline, aged 19. Mr Dinneen said they had made one request: that no-one should think, speak or act in any way which would bring sorrow and harm to anyone else.

The Rt Rev Dr Gordon McMillan, Bishop of Down and Dromore, said: "It is difficult to find words that express the horror that the killing of these parents and their youngest child has brought to the mind and spirit of people throughout our country. The spokesmen who represent the killers have made their excuses, but the fact is that Robin, Maureen and David Hanna are dead because some

people set out to inflict injury and death on other human beings."

The scenes in Hillsborough were in stark contrast to those earlier in the day at another funeral in Belfast.

Police mounted an intensive security operation when IRA man Brendan Davidson, shot dead by "loyalist" gunmen earlier in the week, was buried. Father Peter McCann asked mourners to pray for the surviving Hanna children and for those youngsters who had witnessed the Davidson killing.

A long-serving Parachute Regiment NCO died in a Belfast hospital yesterday from injuries received on Wednesday when he was caught in a Provisional IRA bomb blast near the border in South Armagh.

'No jails' planners criticized

By Peter Evans Home Affairs Correspondent

Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, yesterday criticized Conservative councillors who call for tougher jail terms but then block the provision of new prisons.

He told businessmen visiting the Commons: "There is, I fear, a certain lack of logic on the part of people who clamour for longer prison sentences, yet voice unyielding opposition to any idea of having a prison in their own district. Conservative planning authorities, please note."

"Our experience is that people who live near a prison found that it can make a substantial economic contribution to the neighbourhood - as an employer and as a customer."

The families and lawyers of the four people serving life sentences for the IRA Guildford public house bombings yesterday called on Mr Hurd to make an early decision on their release because they were suffering high levels of stress.

Two High Court judges dismissed an application by an unconvicted prison inmate, Eric Simmons, who is being held at Wormwood Scrubs in west London on a robbery charge, to receive food parcels.

Tour firms should bear risk

By Shona Crawford Poole, Travel Editor

Tour operators should be responsible for the performance of their suppliers and pay compensation for spoiled holidays, the Director of Fair Trading said yesterday.

In a report on package holiday codes, Sir Gordon Borrie concluded that holiday-makers are not receiving the best service and the aims of the Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA) are not being met.

The report, which makes 20 recommendations, was rejected by ABTA which described it as an attack on the UK holiday industry, and claimed that millions would be unable to afford holidays if the suggestions were implemented.

ment to be made based on a survey conducted in 1985 using a sample of 500.

Sir Gordon urged tour operators to accept greater liability for holiday disasters: "The tour operator selects the carriers, hotels, and he should stand behind the performance of his suppliers."

"It is difficult for holiday-makers to take legal action, for example against foreign hoteliers, if something goes wrong. It would be preferable for the tour operator to compensate the holidaymaker and to bear the risk of loss by obtaining adequate insurance."

The report makes no recommendation about surcharges. The issue has been discussed with ABTA by Sir Gordon and the Department of Trade and

Industry, and has led the association to propose amendments to its operator's code.

The recommendations include: better care of passengers delayed at airports; more accurate and detailed brochures; improved compensation where material alterations are made to holidays; better service from better trained local representatives; and more information at travel agents to help customers make informed choices.

The Office of Fair Trading's report, The Package Holiday Codes, A Report Monitoring Surveys, July 1988, is the result of research carried out since 1974 into the effectiveness of ABTA codes of practice for tour operators and travel agents.

Technical troubles delay flights

By Boris Johnson and Tim Perry

It was technical problems that frustrated British air passengers yesterday. Holiday-makers bound for the Canary Islands waited for 12 hours at Manchester airport before being ferried to Heathrow by coach. The backlog of flights was the result of a cracked engine cowling in a Cairair DC10 on Wednesday morning.

A Cairair spokesman said: "Unfortunately the passengers were in very bad humour. They had already put

FLIGHTCHECK



up with long delays and were angered by the prospect of a coach journey to Heathrow."

Scheduled flights were cancelled. A scheduled British Airways flight to Belfast was delayed by one hour. An Air Europe flight from Rome arrived 10 hours late following technical problems.

Other flights were delayed by 10 minutes. A British Airways flight to Madrid was delayed by 78 minutes. A scheduled British Airways flight to London was delayed by 10 minutes. A scheduled British Airways flight to London was delayed by 10 minutes.

to Malaga was delayed by over an hour. A scheduled British Airways flight to Malaga was delayed by 10 minutes. A scheduled British Airways flight to Malaga was delayed by 10 minutes.

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Labour museum director is dismissed

By Tim Jones

Trustees of the National Museum of Labour History have dismissed its moderate director, who claims he has been the victim of a hard-left "whispering campaign".

Last night, Mr Terry McCarthy, an academic historian who founded the museum 13 years ago, blamed hard-left members and staff of Manchester City Council for forcing him out of his £20,000-a-year post.

"They just couldn't accept my moderate Labour policies and it was made plain from the start they wanted me out", he said.

Mr McCarthy, aged 46, said one of the main criticisms of him, was that he was active in the campaign to prevent Mr Peter Shore, MP, being de-selected by the

hard-left in his east London seat of Bethnal Green and Stepney.

A further criticism allegedly levelled against Mr McCarthy is that he has lectured to shop stewards from the EETPU, the electricians' union, which has been suspended from the TUC.

Mr McCarthy has run the museum ever since it was housed in one room in Limehouse Town Hall, east London and opened in 1975 by the then Labour leader, now Lord Wilson of Rievaulx.

When Liberals won control of Tower Hamlets council they gave the museum notice to quit and Manchester City Council pledged two buildings and £800,000 in conversion costs. With the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities, they also agreed to give the museum a grant of £150,000 in the first

year and £350,000 thereafter. To date, only an interim payment of £30,000 has been made, and the museum has now run up an estimated debt of £150,000.

Mr John Lloyd, a member of the EETPU and chairman of the trustees, who include Mr Michael Foot and Gwyneth Dumwoody, MP, were told that unless Mr McCarthy and two colleagues were dismissed the museum would be put into liquidation by August 1.

An inquiry commissioned by the association claimed that "previous maladministration" of the museum had led to debts and damage worth over £400,000.

Mr McCarthy denies maladministration and says the vast majority of union members were "in tatters" when he salvaged them.

Large advertisement for 'EXPERIENCE' featuring 'FINAL REDUCTIONS LIMITED STOCKS' and 'SALE SALE SALE'. It lists various electronic products like JVC 51cm REMOTE CONTROL CTV, compact cameras, hi-fi separates, and camcorders with significant price reductions. Includes a 'MAGNIFY' logo and 'ASK IN STORE FOR DETAILS'.





# Bush casts about for his running mate

From Michael Banyon, Washington

Vice-President George Bush has begun his official search for a running mate, asking at least a dozen people whether they would be interested in joining him on the Republican ticket.

Those expressing interest have been asked to submit personal information to Mr Robert Kimmitt, a Washington lawyer whom Mr Bush has chosen to head the search for a Republican vice-presidential candidate.

The list includes Mr Jack Kemp, the conservative Republican congressman who is now regarded as the most likely candidate, as well as Senator Nancy Kassebaum, one of two women Mr Bush is considering. The other is Mrs Elizabeth Dole, the former Secretary of Transport and wife of Senator Robert Dole, who is also being considered.

But a number of surprises are on the list, who are unlikely to be chosen but could help Mr Bush in regions or states he may make the focus of his campaign. These include Senators John Danforth of Missouri, Pete Domenici of New Mexico, Alan Simpson of Wyoming and William Armstrong of Colorado, and Governor Carroll Campbell of South Carolina.

Other governors who are to be contacted include: Mr James Thompson, the four-time Governor of Illinois, Mr Thomas Kean of New Jersey, an influential moderate, Mr George Deukmejian of Calif-

ornia and Mr John Sununu of New Hampshire. Mr Deukmejian, who could play a vital role in winning California for the Republicans, recently said he was not interested in the job. Mr Sununu is a close friend of Mr Bush. Although he helped to engineer Mr Bush's victory in New Hampshire in February, he may be opposed by influential Republicans and Jewish groups because he is of Arab descent and refused to condemn the UN resolution on Zionism.

Several former governors are also under consideration, including Mr Lamar Alexander of Tennessee, a popular liberal who made education a top priority in his state, a theme Mr Bush also wants to adopt; and Mr Richard Thornburgh of Pennsylvania, who has just been nominated Attorney General.

Mr Bush does not intend to hold personal interviews with all the candidates, and will rely instead on Mr Kimmitt, a former general counsel to the Treasury Department. Mr James Baker, the Treasury Secretary, is expected to resign shortly and become campaign chairman. Mr Bush, who was himself bruised when Mr Reagan picked him only after

failing to persuade former President Gerald Ford to join the ticket, is eager to avoid what he regards as demeaning public auditions.

The long list also includes outsiders such as General Colin Powell, the respected National Security Adviser, who is black. But like Mr Dukakis, Mr Bush is clearly aiming for geographic and ideological balance. Candidates such as Mr Dole, Mr Danforth, Mr Thompson and Mrs Kassebaum, would help in the Midwest; Mrs Dole, Mr Campbell and Mr Armstrong in the South; and Mr Kemp and Mr Armstrong would appeal to conservative voters. Mr Domenici would appeal to ethnic voters.

The Republican right is watching the selection carefully. Senator Gordon Humphrey of New Hampshire, a conservative, said: "Conservatives fear that George Bush will choose someone from the Republican establishment, some bloodless, split-the-difference Republican who will drive blue-collar America right into the arms of smiling Mike Dukakis."

Mr Bush has slipped further behind Mr Dukakis in the polls, and now trails by 34 to 51 per cent. He needs to use his vice-presidential choice to keep the focus on his campaign. He is not expected to announce his selection until the final day of the Republican convention, which opens in New Orleans on August 15.



US ELECTION



Mr Michael Dukakis, the Democratic presidential candidate, getting back to his roots in a Greek dance with members of the Pancretan Association at a Boston, Massachusetts, rally.

# Last-ditch plea for Pyongyang to join Olympics

Seoul (Reuter) — Mr Park Seh Jik, head of the Seoul Olympic Organizing Committee, yesterday made a last-ditch appeal to North Korea to attend the Games so that the divided Korean peninsula could show "a proud united people to the world".

Mr Park, marking the 50-day countdown to the Olympic opening ceremony on September 17, also urged political dissidents and student activists to keep a low profile before and during the Games. "It is my hope that for the 50 days remaining, the people of Korea will rally together, discarding individual or special group interests, and make all efforts to prepare for the Olympics," he told a news conference.

Mr Park, aged 54, a retired army general, said it was still not too late for the communist North to participate in the Games. "We have made every arrangement to accommodate them. There are rooms still reserved for North Koreans in the Athletes' Village and there are places reserved for their participation in the opening and closing ceremonies," he said.

Pyongyang is boycotting the Olympics because its demands to co-host the Games were refused by the International Olympic Committee.

Mr Juan Antonio Samaranch, president of the committee, told reporters in Lausanne on Tuesday that North Korea could still participate at Seoul if it accepted a final compromise offer to host some archery, table tennis, women's volleyball, cycling and soccer events.

Despite the fact that the door is still open for Pyongyang's participation, it is widely believed that the logistics of changing the venues and schedules to North Korea at such a late stage would make this impossible.

"I'd eat my hat if we see Olympic events in Pyongyang," said one Western diplomat involved in his country's preparations for the Games. But he added: "It is still not too late for the North to send a team of athletes to Seoul. The infrastructure could cope with that."

● Ticket honour: Some Olympic tickets will be provided for South Koreans living abroad who have contributed greatly to their country's staging of the Games.

● TOKYO: The US Navy 7th Fleet will stand by to respond to any military aggression by North Korea during the Games in Seoul, an official of South Korea's ruling Democratic Justice Party said here yesterday.

# Riding shotgun on road to Israel elections

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

"Car number four," a white van with Meir, armed with an FN 9.2mm pistol, at the wheel and Tiran Pollock, with his Uzi sub-machine gun, riding shotgun behind, slipped in behind the No 25 bus as it moved north through Jerusalem's northern Arab suburbs towards the big Jewish estate at Neeve Yaacov.

As the bus crossed the border into Shufat, where No 25 bus windscreens have become a favourite target for Palestinian stone-throwers, Mr Gad Servetman alerted the Kach movement headquarters in Jerusalem of their position. "We let them know when we enter the danger area as a matter of routine," he said.

The bus driver was taking his own precautions. He swung the big red and white single decker into the fast lane of the dual carriageway, as far as possible from any stone-throwers hidden behind walls, and put his foot down.

At the entrance to the estate, the van turned round to escort the next bus back to the city.



The road safety committee patrol maintained by Kach — Israel's right-wing nationalist party — was on duty.

Mr Teddy Kofek, the Mayor of Jerusalem, this week condemned the patrols as provocative. The police, who have admitted they cannot stop licensed gun holders driving around, have nevertheless started trying to stop the patrols by elaborate document checks. A crew of four was arrested on Wednesday for "causing provocation".

But Kach means to maintain its patrols, although it has taken down the "escort car" signs which enabled police to identify its vehicles.

The first Kach road patrols started in March last year, but they have begun this week on a regular basis in east Jerusalem, as well as on the road south to Hebron, around Nabulus and on a small scale in Gaza. Its road safety committee can call on up to 20 cars and 100 volunteers. Next week the movement plans to start foot patrols of armed men to escort Jews on their way to prayers in the Old City.

"The main obligation of a government is to meet the security needs of the people," Mr Servetman said. "If the Government fails to do that then it is up to the people to provide it."

"The Army have guns but they are not allowed to use them in the proper way. If you see people throwing stones you have to shoot. First in the air and if that doesn't help at the legs, and if that doesn't help at the feet, rocks are dangerous. They can kill."

"We are not obligated in the same way as the Army, who are under orders not to shoot. We may do whatever is correct in order to enforce security." He said the patrols did not want to shoot or hurt people,

and their main aim was to catch stone-throwers. Patrols had so far caught about 15 people, who had been handed over to the police.

"We work with the police. For instance, when we notice nationalist slogans on the walls we tell the police and they order them to be painted out." He spoke into his walkie-talkie, asking another car to check if wall slogans reported the day before had been erased. They were still there and the police were again notified.

The patrol was nevertheless nervous about being stopped by the police. As the van headed back through east Jerusalem, where police were out in strength, Mr Servetman pointed to the spot where a patrol had been stopped the day before. He hid his walkie-talkie and Mr Pollock put his Uzi out of sight.

The cars are gaining publicity for Kach as the election campaign gets under way, but Mr Servetman denied there was any connection. Nevertheless, Kach's direct action methods are proving attractive to many young voters, with polls showing that up to 20 per cent of serving soldiers support the party.

Mr Servetman, who has been an activist for 12 of his 29 years, said the Palestinian uprising was certain to give political power to the movement "because people can now see that what we said years ago is coming true". The demographic danger was that Arabs would outnumber Jews.

"If you use a stick and a gun you get a solution to the Arab problem for five minutes, but we want a solution that will last for 50 years and more. You can beat them up or shoot them but it won't stop the problem. The only solution is to remove the Arabs from Israel, first from the territories and then from the state of Israel itself."

It was no solution for Israel to leave the occupied territories. "We are obligated to hold these territories which were given to us by God. It is a great obligation for us to settle and to live in these territories."

"The Palestinians can have their own state. They can have it anywhere they like except in the land of Israel."

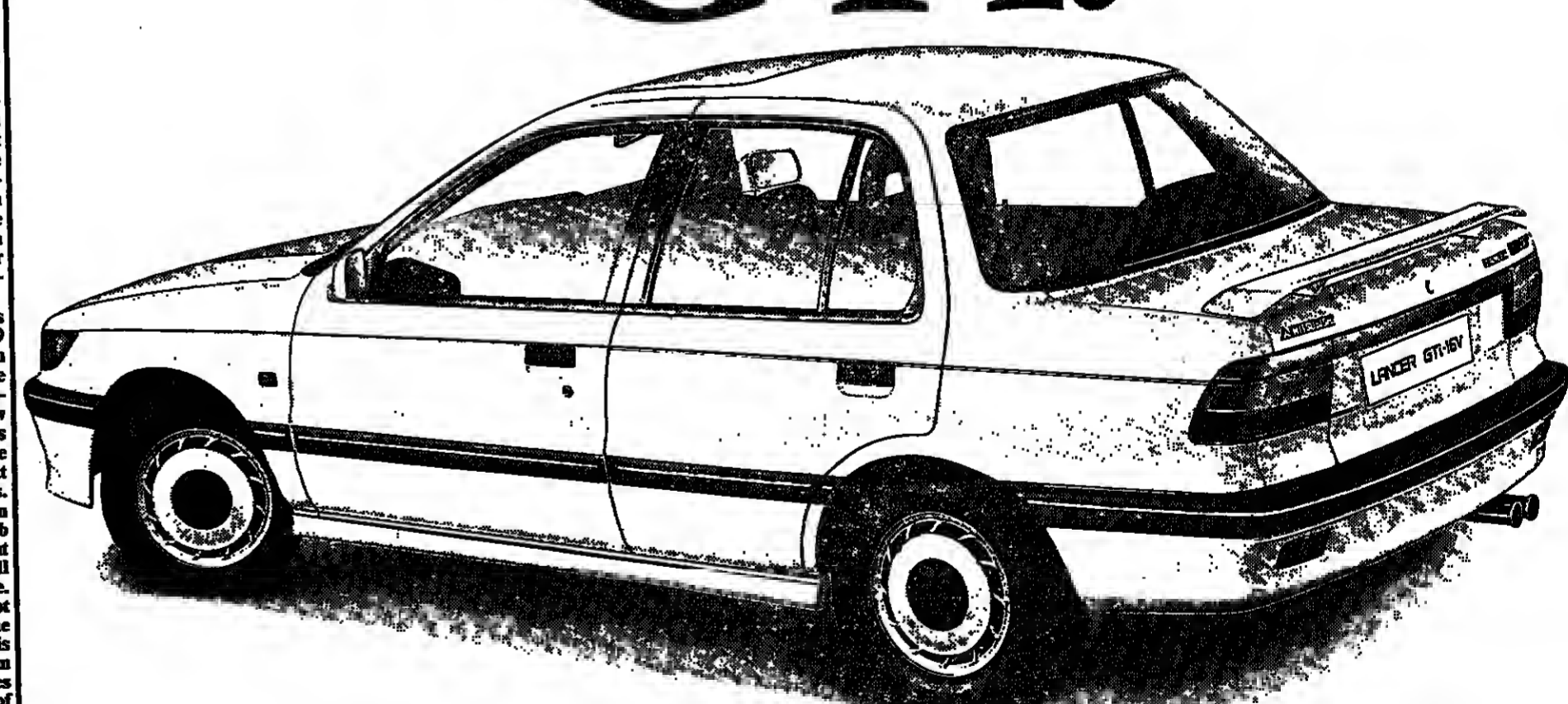
"Five-year-old kids in the refugee camps in the territories say they want to go back home and by that they mean Haifa. That is their home, I understand that, but I am not going to help them go there."

"I don't have anything personal against Arabs. There are many Arabs who are nicer than a lot of Jews. But that is not the point. They must be removed because they are a danger to the state of Israel."

"I understand the Arabs. It is natural for them to support the PLO and to try to kill our people. If I were an Arab I would do the same thing. I do not disagree with that. That is why they have to be removed," he said.

● AMMAN: Jordan cancelled a £760 million development plan for the occupied territories yesterday as part of a drive by King Hussein to give the PLO greater responsibility (AP reports). Syrian radio emphasized that Jordan would continue its "national role as a confrontation state and a prime party in the Arab-Israeli conflict".

# Not just another GTi.



With some GTi's about as common a sight on our roads as catspaws, it's become increasingly impossible to retain an individual identity, while enjoying the performance and prestige of owning one.

But, with the arrival of the new Mitsubishi Lancer GTi 16v all that could change.

For, the Lancer is a GTi for those whose passion lies with what's under the bonnet, not just what badge is stuck to it. In this case a formidable 1.6 litre 'twin cam' 16 valve engine, which, inside a new improved aerodynamic body, produces the type of performance and handling many aspire to but few achieve.

Engineering excellence is only part of the story, however. Once inside you immediately

become aware of its other features. Central locking, electrically operated windows and door mirrors, electric glass sun-roof and stereo radio/cassette, they're all at your fingertips and all fitted as standard.

Plus alloy wheels and a 3 year, unlimited mileage warranty at no extra cost. So, if you don't want to be just another GTi driver, simply fill out the coupon.

The new Mitsubishi Lancer GTi. With a free 3 year unlimited mileage warranty.

Please send me details of the Lancer GTi and my nearest dealer.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. No. \_\_\_\_\_

Present car: Make \_\_\_\_\_ Model \_\_\_\_\_

To: The Colt Car Company Limited, Watermoor, Cirencester, Glos. GL7 1LF. Tel: 0285 5777.

**Leading the way.**

Recommended retail price of Lancer GTi 16v £11,379 (price correct at the time of going to press and includes car tax and VAT but excludes metallic paint and 'on-the-road' charges). For NATO forces Tax Free sales in Europe contact The Colt Car Company Limited, Hochstrasse 66, 4057 Bruggen, W. Germany. Tel: (050 49) 2163-7036.



# New Zealand plans £800m asset sale to cut overseas debt

From Richard Long, Wellington

The New Zealand Government plans a massive NZ\$2 billion (£800 million) privatization programme to reduce its crippling overseas debt, Mr Roger Douglas, the Finance Minister, said in his Budget speech to Parliament last night.

In the long list of state-owned assets which he said were up for sale in the current financial year, Mr Douglas included such sacred cows as the Bank of New Zealand, Postbank and forestry assets.

His asset sales programme, widely opposed in the Labour Party, has already caused back-bench rumbblings and threats by some Labour MPs to cross the floor of the House to oppose any sale of the Bank of New Zealand.

The Minister for State-owned Enterprises, Mr Richard Prebble, said outside Parliament later that the total list of assets up for disposal was actually worth up to \$9 billion. Mr Douglas agreed, but said the target for sales this year was \$2 billion. Sales would be "paced to the capacity of the market", he said.

Mr Douglas last year proposed a \$14 billion asset sales

programme over three years to reduce by one-third New Zealand's overseas debt. The debt stood at \$39.1 billion at March 31, with debt servicing costs absorbing 20 per cent of the Government's income.

Other assets up for sale include the New Zealand Shipping Corporation, the Tourist Hotel Corporation, which owns a string of tourist resorts, the business assets of the Tourism and Publicity Department, Government Property Services, which owns many of the Government's main properties, some central city railway assets and parts of the Rural Bank.

Mr Douglas was met with jeers from the opposition benches when he announced the programme.

"Continued state ownership of a hotel chain, banks, a shipping line, a property company and a tourist agency no longer furthers any of the Government's economic and social objectives," he said.

"The benefits of the sales programme will rapidly emerge. Businesses that have languished under indifferent state management systems will be freed to realize their

full potential. The nation will benefit from the proper utilization of the assets."

Mr Douglas said the country's national debt had to be reduced "on a scale that will really make a difference".

Air New Zealand was not mentioned in the Budget, although a share float of 25 per cent was proposed in last year's Budget.

It is known that Cabinet ministers have canvassed recently the prospect of a complete sell-off of the airline, with British Airways preferred as the new partner in a minority holding with a New Zealand company.

Mr Douglas forecast a budget surplus of \$2.26 billion after asset sales, compared with \$467 million in the year to last March 31, New Zealand's first surplus in 35 years. The sales will produce at least \$2 billion for debt repayment.

The financial deficit — the difference between the Government's operating income and expenditure — was \$1.4 billion, at 2.2 per cent of gross domestic product the same as last year. Mr Douglas also imposed tight spending curbs on government departments.

# Khmer Rouge stumbling block leaves the Vietnamese only 'half happy'

## Cambodia peace talks end with promise of more

From A Correspondent, Bogor

Ending 3½ days of peace talks at a hill resort in Bogor near Jakarta, the warring Cambodian factions have decided to continue the shaky peace process in the same framework at a later stage.

The participants have agreed to set up a working group of senior officials to consider specific aspects of the problem. The working group is supposed to complete its work by the end of the year and make recommendations on convening another meeting.

Closing the talks, the Indonesian Foreign Minister, Mr Ali Alatas, who acted as chairman, declared that the talks had been frank, friendly and constructive, and that "all sides showed a willingness to try, to exert efforts to find areas of common ground".

However, the chairman's somewhat optimistic closing statement was clearly at odds with the feelings of some of the other participants. The Vietnamese Foreign Minister, Mr Nguyen Cu Thach, reiterated that he was only "half happy" with the outcome.

Certain Asian states, notably Singapore and Thailand, were also clearly disappointed,

complaining that nothing of substance was discussed. However, Indonesian Foreign Ministry officials said that both of these countries had always taken a hard line on Cambodia.

The last word at the talks was had by the representative of the Khmer Rouge, Mr Khieu Samphan. In his first public statement since the talks began, he lashed out at the Vietnamese, accusing them of "taking profit" from the meeting and "deceiving the international community".

Earlier in the week, Mr Thach had linked the withdrawal of Vietnamese forces from Cambodia and the neutralization of the estimated 40,000 Khmer Rouge troops. The fact remains that the presence of the Khmer Rouge is an almost insurmountable obstacle on the road to peace.

The only ray of hope emerging from the talks was an agreement that the Prime Minister of the Vietnamese-backed Government in Phnom Penh, Mr Hun Sen, will hold another round of talks with Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the former head of the resistance coalition, in October.



An aide shading Mr Thach (left) and Mr Son Sann, a coalition leader, from the sun.

### Anniversary of accord

## Sri Lanka loses faith in role of Indian troops

From Vijitha Yapa, Colombo

The anniversary of the signing of the Indo-Sri Lankan accord is being observed today with both the majority Sinhalese and the minority Tamils seemingly united in not wanting the Indian troops to remain in Sri Lanka.

Officially there are 52,000 Indian troops in the Northern and Eastern provinces, although Indian analysts say the number is double that.

One of their tasks was to disarm the Tamil guerrillas fighting for a separate state. But, with nearly 600 soldiers dead, the Indians have found that having the fourth largest army in the world does not mean that the guerrillas, mainly of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), scare easily.

Mr Lalith Athulthumudali, Minister of National Security and Trade, said Sri Lanka had fulfilled its obligations under the accord. Sri Lankan troops were restricted to their barracks, an amnesty was granted to the guerrillas, legislation was passed for devolution, elections had been held to all the provincial councils except in the Northern and Eastern provinces, and Tamil guerrillas had been allowed to apply for registration as recognized political parties.

Even the most pro-Indian of the Cabinet ministers and the architect of the accord, Mr Gamini Disanayake, says that the peacekeeping force has not performed its functions well.

"One year after the accord, when the LTTE should be either conforming to the principles of the accord or eliminated as a militant factor, they are still able to defy the Indian Army," he said. Sri Lanka is committed to holding elections in the North and East, but it is the responsibility of India to bring about the condition for this, he said.

The arrival of the Indian troops also gave an excuse for the extremist Sinhalese party, the People's Liberation Front, to whip up feelings. It has committed more than 200 murders, mainly of officials of the ruling United National Party and Government. They

have called for a day of protest today and warned people to stay away from work.

The demands were sent through the postal system, which led the Government to take the unprecedented step of suspending the delivery of all letters for a week.

The Government also imposed a 24-hour curfew in two southern districts, Matara and Hambantota, to prevent violence after reports that the People's Liberation Front was planning demonstrations.

For President Jayewardene it is a decisive year. Presiden-

Colombo — Fourteen Sinhalese farmers were hacked to death and two were seriously injured by guerrillas of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam at Ekkaveturu Oya in the north-eastern district of Melaitiva (A Correspondent writes). The attack, while the farmers were peeling cinnamon, came after the Indian peacekeeping force imposed an 84-hour curfew in five districts, including Melaitiva.

tial elections have to be held between December 15 and January 15, although general election are not due until August next year.

Having won three of the four by-elections held this month, he is said to be keen to have the general election first. Observers feel that if his United National Party does not get an absolute majority at an early general election he will be able to manoeuvre the smaller parties into a coalition if he is still President.

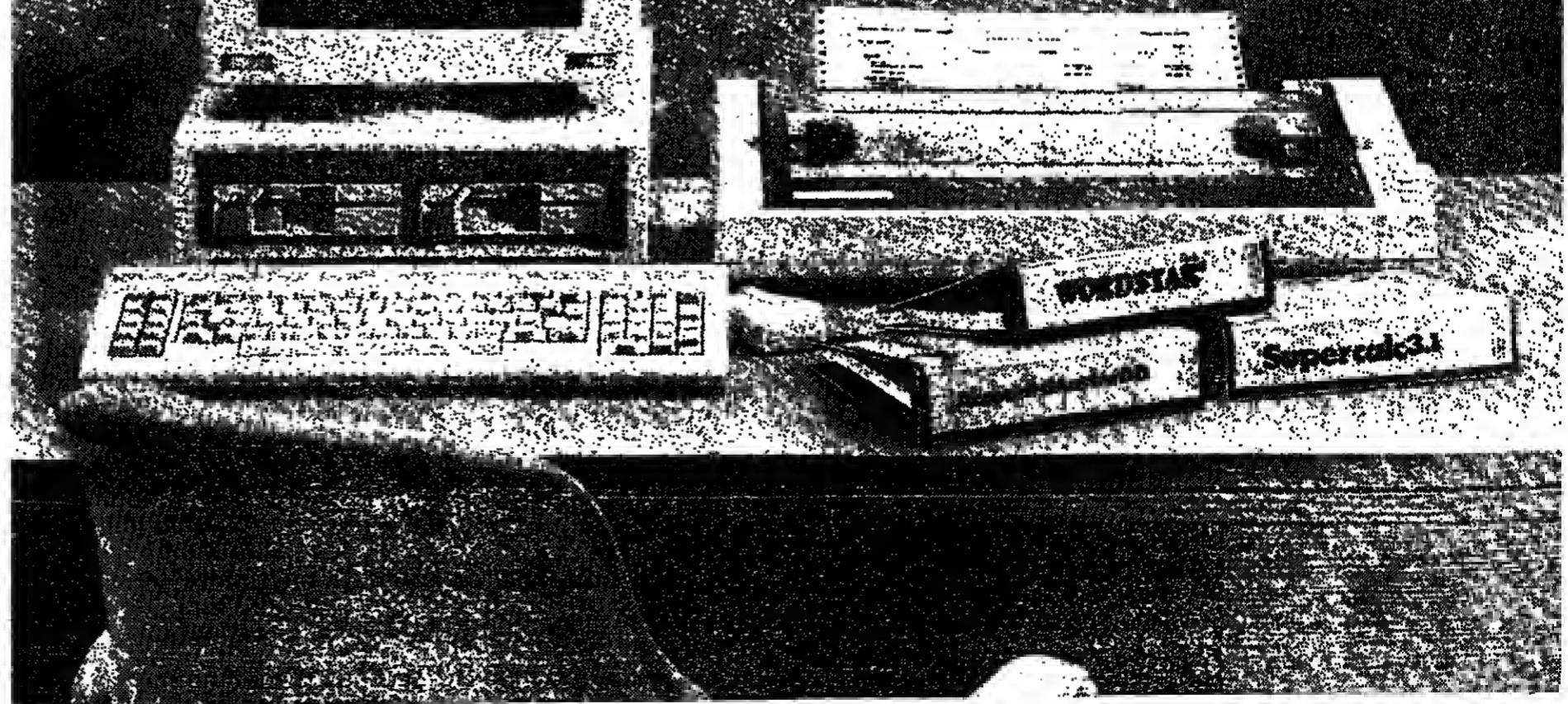
But for him to contest a third term an amendment to the Constitution is necessary, which requires a two-thirds majority. So far, he has not revealed his plans.

The presence of the Indian troops will be a key factor in the elections and Mr Jayewardene would have preferred to go to the people claiming elections to provincial councils in the North and East had been held, the Tamil guerrillas had been disarmed, and Indian troops had begun to go home. But elections in the North and East seem a long way off.

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## Shark death denial

Exmouth, Australia (AP) — A US sailor killed his wife by throwing her into shark-infested waters, a military prosecutor told an American court-martial. Petty Officer Charles Elmore, aged 26, is pleading his innocence at the first court-martial of an American in Australia since the Second World War.

## Leading story

Peking (Reuters) — Hundreds of people were hoaxed into buying the sensationalist tabloid *Boundless News* after vendors said Jiang Qing, Mao Tse-tung's jailed widow, had committed suicide.

## Carter ascent

Nairobi (Reuters) — Mr Jimmy Carter, aged 63, the former US President, will climb Kilimanjaro, at 19,340 ft Africa's highest mountain, next week with his wife, Rosalynn. Tanzanian tourism officials said.

## Shop bombing

Amritsar (AFP) — A bomb believed to have been planted by Sikh militants gutted two Punjab chemist shops and three medical laboratories.

## Baby sacrifice

Dhaka — A Bangladeshi woman axed her four-month-old daughter to death because she believed a sacrifice to God would free her family from poverty, a newspaper said.

## Police record

Peking (Reuters) — China said that its police illegally detained more than 30,000 people in 1987, and there were 202 cases of police raping, fatally beating or seriously abusing prisoners.

## Campus shut

Dhaka (Reuters) — Bangladesh closed Rajshahi University after at least 25 students were injured in fierce battles between rival political groups.

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# SPECTRUM 1

ALAN HOWARD

## ELEVEN ON THE SHORT LIST

**A) Environmental:**  
 Bealough Broad restoration, Wrotham, Norfolk (Broads Authority)  
 Brynllys Farm organic management project (Mr and Mrs Gareth Rowlands)  
 Esherow Country Park Braille Trail (Stockport Metropolitan Borough)  
 Oban Rare Breeds Farm Park, Oban, Argyll (Miss Catherine Simpson)  
 Upper Derwent Valley Management Plan, Peak District (Peak Park Joint Planning Board and Severn Trent Water Authority)

**B) Educational:**  
 Boughton House Visitor Centre, Kettering, Northants (Duke of Buccleuch)  
 Eian Valley Visitor Centre, Rhayader, Powys (Welsh Water Authority)  
 Giant's Causeway Visitor Centre, Antrim, Northern Ireland (Moyle District Council)  
 Kingston Hill Dawpounds Project, near Lewes, Sussex (East Sussex County Council and Northore Manor School)  
 Sandwell Park Farm, West Bromwich (Sandwell Metropolitan Council)  
 Willows and Wetlands Visitor Centre, Taunton, Somerset (Mr and Mrs C. Coate)

# Saving for the future



### Judging *The Times*/RICS annual conservation awards never looked like an easy task. George Hill describes the hard choices that needed to be made

As our boat reached the middle of Bealough Broad, the rain came on again in torrents. Perched on our open craft, which was nothing more than a scaled-up tin baking tray, we had no shelter from the deluge which hissed on the open water and the gnarled roots and branches of the alders which had gradually encroached on the Broad over the years, and had threatened to swallow it up altogether.

It was like a scene from *The African Queen*, only chillier. David Brewster, a conservation officer for the Broads Authority, dipped a plastic

bucket over the side, to show us the teeming population of water-fleas. On the Broads they are proud of having fleas; they are a sign that water which had been polluted by tourism and agriculture is beginning to come to life again.

The three of us were peering into these murky waters to judge the Broads Authority's entry for a prize in the 1988 Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors/*The Times* Conservation Awards. We visited 11 projects, ranging from the Sussex Downs to the Highlands and Northern Ireland.

My two fellow judges were Michael Wright, a former

editor of *Country Life*, who had been appointed to our judicial bench by the RICS, and Brigadier Tom Collins, nominated by the Association of County Councils, who is retiring from the team this year, and was perhaps the last officer in the British Army to have had his horse shot from under him on the field of battle (at Dunkirk).

The rescue of Bealough Broad was potentially one of the most significant projects on our list. Pollution had reached a point where water-plants would scarcely grow and exercise their cleansing effects. Oozy mud saturated



Testing the waters: Broads Authority warden Rob Andrews checks the population of the vital water-fleas in Bealough Broad

with phosphates was building up at an increasing rate, and threatened soon to fill the shallow Broad altogether.

It was necessary to harness biology and local politics jointly, if the operation was to succeed. Before there could be any hope of reversing the pollution, the Anglian Water Board had to be persuaded to install equipment in the local sewage works to "strip" phosphates from their discharges. Only when the river Bure was clean was there any point in trying to remove the polluted mud from the Broad. The

mud was so soft that a suction dredger had to be used.

If the Bealough experiment succeeds, the technique might be a pointer to the handling of other polluted waterways in Britain and abroad.

This is the 18th year of the awards, which were launched in 1971 as a result of European Heritage Year. Every year a particular theme is chosen — industrial reclamation, or conversion of buildings to new uses, or this year's theme of "Coast and Countryside". The rules stress the importance of value for money,

benefit to the community and success in tapping available sources of subsidy.

We had to apply these rules on equal terms, as far as we were able, to major local authority projects worth several millions, and private initiatives costing a hundredth as much.

The problem of scale caused us many headaches, and the problem of categories as many more. The awards were divided into two sections, educational and environmental. We soon found that most entrants were equally strong runners in both categories. Bealough, a hauntingly secluded testing-ground hidden in an impenetrable

metropolitan borough of Stockport, with tactile pointers and a cassette tape commentary, enabling blind visitors to explore safely and freely in the midst of rough terrain including deep canals and waterfalls.

A majestic but crumbling coach-house block at a stately home, Boughton House in Northamptonshire, had been turned into a natural history display. How were we to compare this £670,000 project with an enterprising but financially far more modest scheme

in Somerset, to open a 160-year-old willow farm to visitors as a craft display and natural history centre, helping keep it viable when similar concerns in the area have been forced to close?

As well as sending us to be drenched in the course of duty while admiring water-fleas in the Broads, and to scratch the bristly forehead of Oban's endearingly hideous Vietnamese pot-bellied pig, our quest also took us to a bicycle hire shop in the Peak District and scrambling over the slippery prehistoric building-blocks of the Giant's Causeway, while inspecting a newly built visitor centre there.

Can a brand-new building qualify for a conservation award? We decided that it might, if the scheme enhanced public enjoyment and understanding of the landscape, as the terms of our brief stipulated. But was it good value, and how was it to be rated beside the bicycles, the pig and the water-fleas? From dilemmas such as these, we wrestled our way towards a decision on the prize-winners. Who we eventually chose will be revealed to the world on September 12.

In a model low-cost project, the school cleared two ponds on the South Downs Way, used by 120,000 walkers a year, and monitored the effects, making a real contribution to knowledge. The scheme is already attracting the attention of other landowners and may today prove more cost-effective than installing water-pipes.

Somewhere we had to make comparisons between a farm park near Oban, where rare breeds of farm animals are bred and displayed, and a Braille trail ingeniously laid out in a country park by the

## A window on radiation

An ingenious way of estimating retrospectively exposure to natural radiation caused by radon has been worked out by Christer Samuelsson, of the University of Lund, Sweden. This development is important because, for most people, natural radon is the chief source of radiation exposure.

Radon, which is radioactive, is a colourless and odourless gas chemically related to helium and argon. It is formed naturally from the radioactive decay of uranium. Traces of the gas are found everywhere near ground-level, but it is most abundant above rock formations such as granite containing proportions of uranium.

Most radiation exposure arises in homes, where radon accumulations are greater if the ventilation is poor. During the past few years, there has been particular anxiety about the domestic exposure of tens of millions of people living in a broad belt in the eastern United States running north from southern Pennsylvania. The substantial emission of radon from the ground there is complicated by the standard design of houses, which are draught-proofed and unventilated.

Samuelsson's new technique will contribute powerfully to the understanding of the seriousness of radon exposure, now known from studies among uranium miners to cause lung cancer. The starting-point for his study is the observation that the radioactive decay of radon is followed by seven other decay steps producing various isotopes of lead and the unstable element polonium before ending at a stable isotope of lead, called lead 206.

Writing in *Nature* this week, Samuelsson describes how he has been able to detect one of the isotopes of polonium on the surfaces of pieces of glass such as window panes, and picture glass. Striking proof that radon pollution in principally indoors comes from measurements of a window pane from a Swedish house showing polonium on the inside

surface but not on the other.

Samuelsson says his technique will help surmount what is now regarded as the principle stumbling-block in assessing the danger of radon pollution — that of estimating the total amount of radiation from this source to which people have been exposed. Window panes and other glass objects contain a record of radon exposure by stacking back over decades because one of the polonium isotopes formed from radon (called polonium-214) is long-lasting — half of it disappears by radioactive decay every 22 years.

The new development is welcomed by researchers and the Radiological Protection Board (NRPB), who have been measuring domestic radon contamination in British dwellings for several years. In some sites in Britain, people are exposed to as much radiation this way as nuclear industry workers receive occupationally.

So far, the assessment of risk has been complicated by the time-lag between exposure to radiation and the appearance of tumours as well as by uncertainty about people's exposure to radon.

NRPB estimates that 20,000 homes in Britain have enough radon to merit some kind of action. Most of these — about 13,000 — are in Devon and Cornwall. The cost of necessary building modifications is estimated at £10 million, but as many as 250,000 people could live in these houses in the next 50 years; 1,500 of them might lose their lives.

Samuelsson's technique for telling past radiation exposure would not be possible without improved techniques for counting the products of radioactive decay called alpha particles, and without the good luck that the long-lived polonium isotope of polonium eventually decays to a much shorter-lived isotope called polonium-210, whose decay products can be counted.

Henry Gee



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SPECTRUM 2

Going, going...but up or down?

Is your silver dinner plate or pewter tankard worth more or less than last year? As the sale rooms take their summer break, we present a plain man's guide to the ever-changing antiques market

THE WINNER, THE PLODDER, THE LOSER: A TALE OF THREE ANTIQUES

Why have Marilyn Monroe's cast-off garments increased ten thousand-fold in value within a year while John Wayne's shirt still sells for a niggardly £2,420, despite its special-effect bullet holes? Why have natsuke (the toggles with which Japanese gentlemen recovered their kimono) recovered their value, when ivories (the counterweights at the other end) have become decidedly de trop?



Sarah Jane Checkland

By spring 1988, general confidence and the speculation that accompanies it had returned, although the market's underbelly of middle-range goods continued to falter.

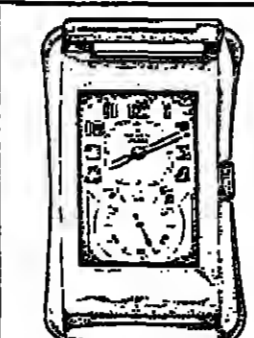
Art Nouveau, for example, a bandwagon on to which everyone has leapt recently, is showing signs of strain. 'The Flute Player', a sculpture by Chiparus, fetched £17,000 last year but remained unsold this.

But it is the market's vicissitudes that make it interesting. In the 1970s collectors would kill to buy Steingraphs (silks pictures) or fairings (prizes presented at Bohemian fairsgrounds). Hardly anyone has heard of them today.

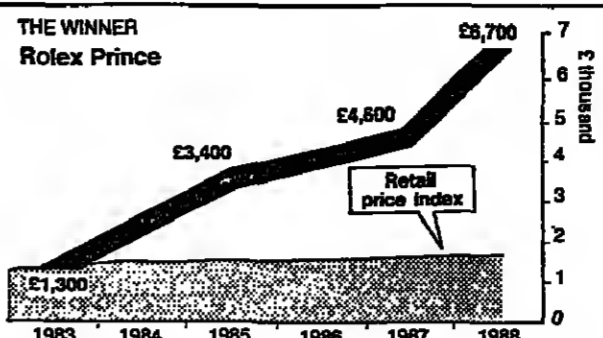
Christopher Weston, chairman of Phillips, believes in the Harpic Principle: 'good prices flush out the goods'. But the opposite can also happen. Because prices for cheap pewter are declining, people are holding on to their quality pewter.

Two things seem certain. First, the new craze for selling treasure salvaged from the sea has proved too much of a gamble. The battered, once-waterlogged contents of HMS Invincible, salvaged off Portsmouth recently, totalled only £60,000 at Christie's South Kensington in March, hardly a jackpot price.

Second, the trade in tribal human heads appears to be at an end. After agitations from Survival International, the tribal rights campaigners, a fine Maori specimen was withdrawn from sale in May at Bonhams, as was Christie's



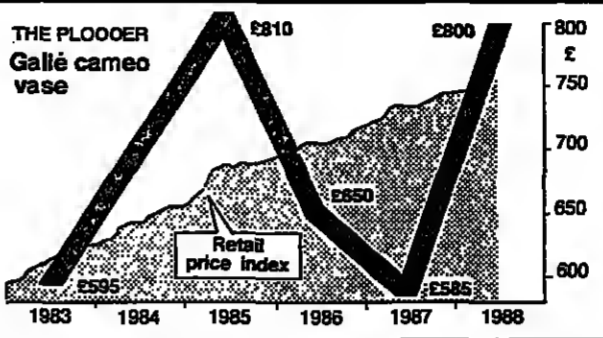
THE WINNER Rolex Prince



A two-colour 9-carat gold striped Rolex Prince wristwatch from the 1920s or 1930s. This is a new market, born from a reaction against quartz battery timepieces. 'Things have been going extremely well. One wonders when it's going to stop,' says Tina Miller of Sotheby's.



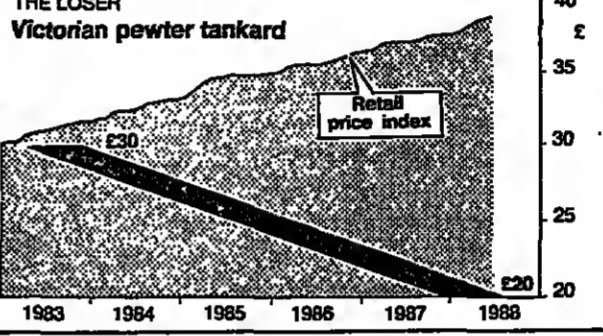
THE PLODDER Gallé cameo vase



A Gallé cameo vase of circa 1900, mass-produced in a factory in Nancy, eastern France. Despite its apparently erratic progress on the chart, this example of 'commercial' glassware designed by the Frenchman Emile Gallé (as distinct from his one-off 'artistic' pieces) has been changing along consistently over the years.



THE LOSER Victorian pewter tankard



A regular pewter Victorian tankard, as used for many a pint of ale. Americans decorating their interiors liked pewter in the 1970s, according to Simon Bingham of Phillips, but since then it has suffered from the health food phase.

collection of 28 further heads, scheduled for June. For any category of antique to have kept pace with inflation, it would need to have increased its value more than twice over the last 10 years.

appears to have been sustained. Sotheby's annual sales figures are up 3 per cent to £865 million; Christie's are up 10 per cent to £639 million.

Big money can be made from fortuitous sales, but there are no hard and fast rules, no definitive forms of advice. The only criterion which can be trusted by potential buyers is good, old-fashioned, personal taste.

At a glance: a guide to what's moving where in the antiques world

GOING UP

General furniture Strong performers. Prices are pushed up by shortage of top goods. Best example: Regency bergère chair, up from £30 in 1968 to £2,000. Oak and walnut fell during 1986, but are now on an upsurge.

GOING DOWN

Stiff teddy bears Enjoyed a boom around 1986, particularly for those with rings in their ears. Now only the best get top prices, up to £2,000.

MONROE: FROM £1,725...



Sold, June 28, 1987, in New York: the white silk pyjama suit worn by Marilyn Monroe in The Seven Year Itch

TO £7,150...



Sold, February 11, 1988: the blouse worn by Monroe in Bus Stop (modelled, left). And on May 5 almost £20,000 was paid for the dress (right) she wore in Some Like It Hot

TO £19,800

Clarice Cliff Cheap and cheerful pottery painted by an Englishwoman in the 1930s. Dramatic rise from 1980 until 1984 when a number of fakes frightened collectors off, and this market 'went to sleep'.

Art Nouveau sculpture Bronze and ivory figures by Art Nouveau artists like Preiss and Chiparus have become erratic. Rare figures continue to be in greatest demand.

Nettsuke After a tough time, new societies have started in Europe, and the market has awoken.

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# THE ARTS

Paul Griffiths on downbeat and dowdy deities setting the tone of this year's Bayreuth *Ring*

## In search of Valhalla



Bedraggled huddle of gods: from the left: Donner, Froh, Wotan, Fricka and Freia

### OPERA

**Das Rheingold**  
Festspielhaus,  
Bayreuth

The gods have come to earth again in modern dress. Harry Kupfer, in the new Bayreuth *Ring*, appeared to be taking up where Patrice Chéreau left off. even literally so, in that where Chéreau ended *Götterdämmerung* with his chorus in mufti staring combatively at the audience, Kupfer begins *Das Rheingold*, in silence, with two dozen people in long raincoats looking out from the rear of the stage, over the shadowy body of Alberich. Slowly they turn and withdraw as the light dimly starts it is accompanied by a laser light show that establishes the bed of the Rhine as a green square-sided tunnel. The Rhinemaidens, more seductive than usual in loose bodices of

violet, blue and green above sparkling a tight, gambol with scornful eroticism and are delightfully, laughingly sung by Hilde Leidland, Annette Köttenbaum and Jane Turner.

However, their accompaniment turns into fairy music out of Mendelssohn, the first of many clues that Daniel Barenboim's handling of the score is too ornamental and too apt to rush at opportunities to relieve the mood (the transition from the third to the fourth scene is another example).

When Alberich arises, he stumbles about like a clown, with floppy arm movements and delivering much of his part straight to the audience: Günter von Kamen produces a hollow moronic tone at full strength and malevolence.

The arrival of the gods brings five trench-coated figures, more bedraggled than festooned with wreaths and garlands for May Day. They come to a huddle at the front of the stage and inspect the completed Valhalla is the audience, or perhaps it is the Festspielhaus, or perhaps it is nowhere.

John Tomlinson, if stretched by a few

high-lying phrases, proves the value of a true, rich bass in Wotan's music, and he acts well as a god without authority, a god whose insecurity often shows itself in a rapt withdrawal: he is much more often to be found leaning on his spear than manifesting it. Linda Fimnie, in turban hat, provides a Fricka of ripe, bright vocal allure behind her housewife demeanour, and Kurt Schreinemayer is a heroic Froh.

Fasolt and Fafner are, once more, proper giants: wheeled about within flowing robes of tan and black respectively, they stand four metres or so high, and they make a nicely contrasted pair, with Matthias Hölle's wealth of fine feeling matched by Philip Kang's sepulchral bleakness.

The descent to Nibelheim, achieved by a raising of the central part of the stage to reveal a criss-cross construction of yellow girders, introduces the crisp Mime of Helmut Pampuch, dressed like the doctor in *Wozzeck*, and the magic effects are, like the appearance of the giants, placed at the level of naivety.

Alberich becomes a column of cloud as the stage direction demands, and as a dragon he is a length of transparent plastic hose ending in a gold claw.

There is a little more of wonder for the rainbow bridge, when strip lights in appropriate colours appear on the mirror-sided skyscraper that is the main feature of Hans Schavernoch's set for all but the first scene. The gods, having danced to a point of collapse, then get up to don again their greenery, go behind this thing and are seen departing in some sort of capsule.

Kupfer is not the first producer to find it easier at this point to believe in Loge than in Wotan, and he is lucky in his performer: Graham Clark is the only singer as yet to command the stage.

Dressed in black suit and black leather coat, with a quiff of blonde hair stretching from a curl over his forehead to a cue, he is a fastidious prancer, often with his hands in his pockets to indicate how he is wasting his time among this riff-raff, and other times making his gestures in the way that he sings: with clipped and precise articulation.

## Richly drawn portrait of the artist

### TELEVISION

Swarming to the top of a tall wooden pole, festively erected in his native town, the young Goya (Channel 4) was assailed by a prophetic vision of the wider world as he would see it in later life. This useful conceit served as a contents page for the six hours of biopic to come, and hinted that serious pesetas may have been spent on reconstructing the subjects of some of the major canvases.

Little fault can be found with the look of the thing, from stately perukes to glowering rococo interi-

ors, but the decision to dnh from Castilian into Old Vic is to be regretted. As in any filmed drama, there can be no substitute for the voices of the original players at the time they spoke their lines. One wants to hear the atmosphere of the occasion, whether or not one understands a word of the language. Given the strictly functional dialogue of the costume mini-series ("Paco! You have returned to Zaragoza after an absence of three years!", and so forth), subtitles would surely not have intruded.

Two centuries later, in distinctly unglowing Leeds, *True Stories*

(also Channel 4) got a selection of youngish citizens to record their attitudes, prospects and ambitions. Portentously and unwittingly subtitled *Maggie's Children*, the programme's most depressing aspect was that its mouthpieces accepted society's pigeonholes so unquestioningly. Allowed their head an camera, the punk, the nurse, the student, the insurance salesman and the body-building self-employed car-washer trotted out a pedigree string of clichés.

At the extremes of the spectrum, the punk (who had extended the principle to changing his name to Scum in line with a teacher's pet

name for him) seemed to believe that the teenage years do not end at 19, while the salesman (23 and still looking for a really good car- phone) appeared never to have been young at all.

"Ideas are very important", he intoned, though giving no indication of his capacity to recognize one should be in his muesli. "People have got to learn to stand on their own two feet", he went on, sitting comfortably. The summation of his philosophy was that "everybody should be relatively happy". Which is, perhaps, relatively true.

Martin Cropper

## Prospero's verse magic

### THEATRE

**The Tempest**  
Royal Shakespeare  
Stratford-upon-Avon

Even if all but Prospero had been commonplace, this production by Nicholas Hytner would be notable and well worthwhile for bringing back John Wood at last to the British stage. Our theatre had been poorer without him and his grainy, bitter and abruptly amused voice.

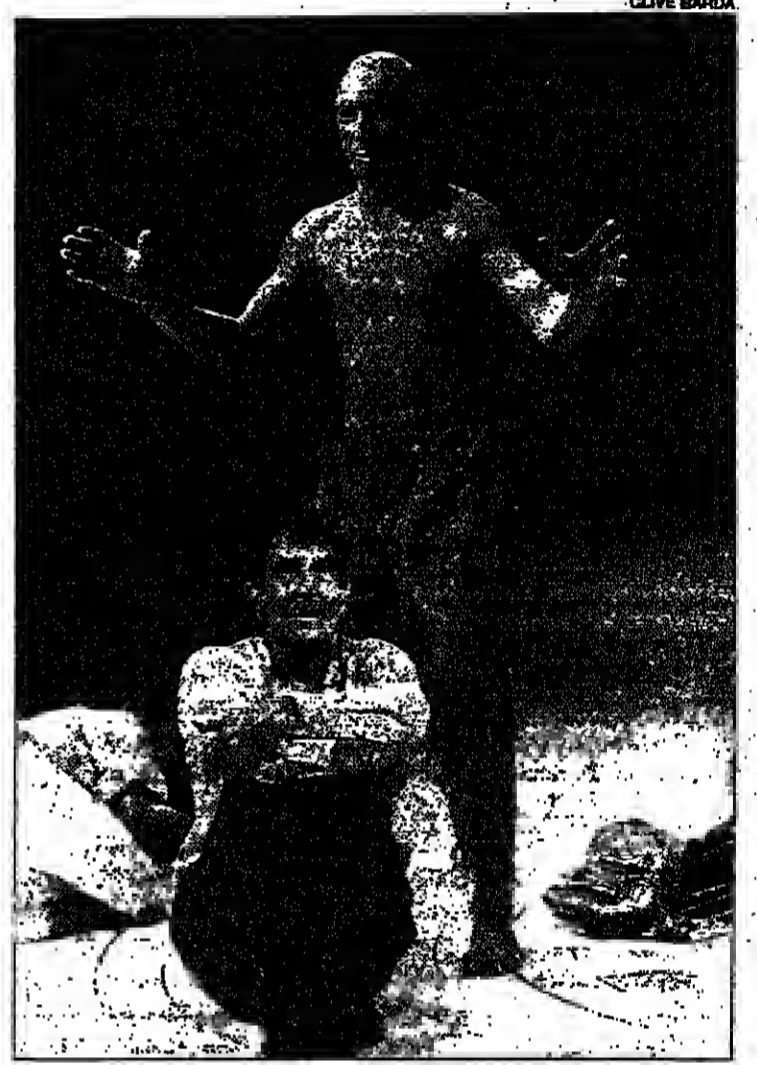
One precious and rare quality in his verse speaking is its power to conjure up visual images. His Prospero speaks of promontories, clouds or shores and the bare nouns take on form and colour in the mind; he has the vital quality of seeming to mint the thoughts and images anew but, more than this, his voice at times seems torn from him, thrust out to us by some fiercely concentrating will.

On the white, round O of the main stage, steeply tilted against a sky blue cyclorama hung with cloud-grey drapes (designer David Fielding) Wood in a modern shirt and trousers — a hands-in-pockets magus — presides over a crew of Jacobean castaways.

Hytner's generally excellent direction draws good, strong performances from the courtiers, with a notable Alonso from Nicholas Selby at their head.

Further down the social scale, Desmond Barri's Trinculo, rouged and kiss-curl'd like a caricature of Oscar Wilde, and employing a voice like one of his more petulant bedfellows, inches himself under Caliban's gaberdrine with memorable reluctance.

Guided by the seething rage in Wood's performance, the play's theme of repentance and forgiveness is in general clearly drawn.



Spirited pairing: John Wood as Prospero with Duncan Bell as Ariel

What is less persuasive is the redemptive quality of marriage and I do not see that Hytner understands the crucial importance of this theme. The poetry of the betrothal masque is not negligible and bears vitally on the issue: it is therefore foolish to obscure the language with harsh, plinky-plunk music.

Marital harmony is hardly what comes to mind when Melanic Thaw's Miranda bombards Ferdinand (James Purefoy) with chessmen, which he tries to ward off with the board. An image for a feminist age, I fear, and remote from the true meaning of the scene. Jeremy Kingston

## Strange terrain

### ROCK

**Jane Siberry**  
ICA

While Jane Siberry's music may be signposted by references to Joni Mitchell's folk-jazz melisma, Laurie Anderson's surreal spoken narratives and Kate Bush's quasi-theatrical miming routines, such shorthand comparisons do not prepare the traveller for the strange terrain at the heart of this gifted Canadian singer-songwriter's work. Although she released her first album as long ago as 1981, and has since become a significant presence on the North American concert circuit, this was her debut on this side of the Atlantic.

She introduced herself between numbers in friendly, whimsical talks that suggested an agile mind, but one at work in some sort of odd, parallel reality — the kind of person, she told us, to be found in

the kitchen at parties, discussing the merits of grouper fish as if the future of the world itself depended on it.

The music reflected the opaque, mystical quality of her personality. With her electric, four-piece band — a regular line-up that has accompanied her for the last two albums — and two female backing singers, she embarked on a long set of engaging and thought-provoking material, notable for its sweeping dynamic range.

At its simplest, for instance "Red High Heels", her music was performed in a melodic, folk-rock style, but more often the songs were painstakingly built up from near silence into bold, extended themes of ethereal passion and beauty. "The White Tent The Raft" and "Seven Steps To The Wall" were dramatic, existential cantatas which proceeded like clouds scudding across the sky: one minute light and thin with wild blue beyond, the next thick and full of a brooding sense of foreboding.



Whimsical and mystical: Jane Siberry, Canadian singer-songwriter

She sang in a pure, glacial soprano, which melded with her supporting singers to produce many delightful, idiosyncratic chorales.

Occasionally, as in "The Lobby", there was a sensation that for all its sophisticated movement the music was not going anywhere.

But for the most part, and particularly during the extraordinary "Mimi On The Beach", one became utterly absorbed by the delicate web of atmosphere and evocative illusion which she wove to such spellbinding effect.

David Sinclair

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**PROMENADE CONCERT**

**Bournemouth Sinfonietta/Norrington**  
Albert Hall

Thematic festival planning can lead to some odd programmes, but this year's Proms theme Music and Literature, cannot be held responsible for Wednesday night's mixture of Mozart, Richard Strauss and David Mathew.

Certainly Strauss's *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme* and Matthew's *Cantiga*, have literary connections, but the decision to put them together with Mozart's *Hafner Symphony* must have been taken on some musical grounds.

It wasn't just the mixture: *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme* is witty and inventive, but taken as a whole it feels like a large helping of very light pastry — far too thin to make an adequate second half on its own.

As played by the Bournemouth Sinfonietta under Roger Norrington it has its entertaining moments, although quite who Norrington felt he was serving by opting for vibratless string playing in the "Lully's Minuet" movement was difficult to tell. Authenticity in this instance surely means faithfulness to Strauss's idea of Lully, not the views of modern scholarship.

A similar confusion of aims was apparent in the Mozart — modern instruments, but selected elements of period performance style and, somewhat incongruously, what looked and sounded like a pair of 18th-century timpani.

David Mathew's new *Cantiga* received the most authoritative performance, Jill Gomez giving her all to this richly expressive vocal line. Mathew's sensitive word setting elicited strong sympathy from Gomez, and the orchestra responded warmly.

**Stephen Johnson**

**Across 800 years**

**Hilliard Ensemble**  
Queen Elizabeth Hall

CONCERT

Possible nuclear obliteration apart, what, I wonder, are the odds against the survival for another 800 years of the magnificent repertoire of the late 12th-century Notre-Dame school? The Hilliard Ensemble on Tuesday, as part of "Pickett's Pageant", provided ample proof of the ability of Master Leoninus and Perotinus the Great to compose rich, subtle and dramatic music which can still speak to us with disarming directness.

The programme worked cleverly towards Perotinus's great four-voice organum, *Sederunt principes*. By any standards this is a masterpiece of invention, taking its structural cues, like most of the music heard here, from the chant which forms its basis. Thus a magnificent fantasy of three interweaving voices, creating exquisite patterns over a static note, leads to pure chant and thence to music

ever more complex. One is tempted to use the epithet "symphonic", such is the cumulative effect.

*Sederunt*, however, was not the only piece that sent a chill up the spine. There was Perotinus's beautiful monody *Beata viscera*, for instance, sung by David James over a hauntingly hummed drone, while the two-voice *conductus*, *Dum sigillum* teased the ear just as a Bach Invention might.

Then there were Leoninus's pieces, finely sculpted if marginally less swaggeringly confident, like the three-voice *conductus*, *Veni creator spiritus* and *Ysalas cecint* and the satirical troych made from two monodies, *Bulla fulminante* and *Veste nuptialis*, and another *conductus*, *Die Christi verus*.

All were sung by the Hilliard's seven voices with impeccable blend and much imagination.

**Stephen Pettitt**

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FRIDAY PAGE

A problem aired, a syndrome shared



BARBARA AMIEL

Carol and Tony have been married for five years and have three children. She is white and he is black. Her dad came to the wedding but does not approve of mixed marriages and does not want much to do with Tony. When accused of racism he does not demur.

"I couldn't cope with rejection." The problems discussed on these programmes cause much anguish and it is difficult not to be sympathetic. The problems themselves, after all, are not shameful. But what is shameful, or ought to be, or certainly would have been in another society, is the willingness to air them in this fashion. Of course, so long as people go on these programmes voluntarily, one cannot possibly object to the shows.

'Hands up those who think Tony should tolerate the situation'

That the British public are far less sensitive about appearing on television than critics believed. "My partner in life is a psychoanalyst, and one of the things she said early on is that it's a good thing to argue. That's the only way they can make a breakthrough and say what they've bottled up."

The ground for this sort of programme was initially broken by Thames Television which is now into its third season of A Problem Aired.

He bought a house in Holyhead, learnt to speak fluent Welsh, and began a bright, if unremarkable, career, retaining his seat in the 1983 election.

"Yes," he whispered, although I could not help thinking that this thought might not have occurred to him without helpful Dr Rosen. Karen just



HARRY KERR

Keith Best: "It's the profession I valued, which I was proud to represent. And to think I've been found wanting. That eats you away, like cancer"

Paying the Best price

Keith Best has lost one career, maybe two.

He tells Catherine Bennett why life is unfair

"Happy the man who has nothing at all, because he has nothing to lose," says Keith Best, the former Conservative MP, whose descent from eminence into ignominy continued yesterday when, it is believed, he was disgraced at a disciplinary hearing of the Bar Council.

Best says he is bound by regulations of the Bar Council not to make any comment on yesterday's hearing, but before it took place he said that being disgraced would mean "you can write off the last 20 years of my life professionally". He is now appealing against yesterday's verdict.

After 15 months in which he has surrendered his parliamentary career, spent a week in Brixton gaol, failed in an appeal against conviction, and acquired a criminal record, Best's Bar qualification had become the most important thing left to him. "It's the profession I valued," he said before the hearing. "And to think I've been found wanting. That eats you away, like cancer... and I haven't even touched on the loss of my parliamentary life. I go to bed dreaming about it, and I wake up thinking about it."

It is now almost four years since Best committed the crime which has left him without employment and with little prospect of finding any. When the British Telecom shares were issued before privatization, he was one of the 4,400 people later discovered to have made suspect multiple

applications. Best applied six times, using variations of his own name. The application form did not state that only one application should be made; and, although a page in the accompanying prospectus did so, it merely added that multiple applications were liable to be rejected, or aggregated.

His several ownerships were detected three years later by a researcher, whose revelations in Labour Research, a periodical, led to a national scandal in March 1987. Best resigned his seat of Ynys Môn (formerly

barrier and officer, Best could only admit that "obviously I convict myself of foolishness of the first order". Last September, Best's was one of only 11 prosecutions arising from the Telecom share issue. He pointed out that none of the other defendants, all professional men, had made fewer than 20 applications, all in fictitious names, and all were punished with a fine. He was sentenced to four months in prison and removed in his three-piece suit, handcuffed to a police officer, to Brixton gaol.

After five days in prison Best's sentence was quashed, and replaced with an increased fine. He returned to his widowed mother's house in Sussex, a cheerful, chintzy place with sheepskin rugs and Royal Doulton figures.

As a conscientious day-boy at Brighton College, he had been uncertain what to do until his father, who had worked in a bank, suggested a law degree, and Keith went up to Keeble College, Oxford. A lonely young barrister, he joined the Young Conservatives and discovered the allure of "public service". Within three years he had become a Brighton councillor, within six he had wrested the Anglesey seat from Labour in the biggest winning swing of the 1979 election.

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'Do people expect me to commit suicide? How far are you meant to go?'

Anglesey, and was later investigated, by the Fraud Squad. In a voice which has a permanently plaintive note to it, Best still denied having behaved dishonestly. "It was standard practice to make multiple applications in previous issues. No body had ever hinted at the fact that it was an unlawful activity—and no one had ever been prosecuted for it... For a few shares I'm hardly likely to throw away my parliamentary seat when I love the island so much, my profession, my Territorial Army—am I going to smash my life for a few shares?"

To those who consider multiple applications to be greedy and unfair, whether criminal or not, and an activity absolutely unworthy of an MP,

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Mothers who work

From Francis Steiner, Deddington, Oxfordshire

TALKBACK

I do not know whether the phrase in Betty Jernum's interesting article on school governors, ("The ruling class", Wednesday Page, July 13) in which she explains the choice of certain magazines by the DES, is the department's or her own. But whoever wrote

it, the idea of "mothers who may not be working, particularly if they have young children" does not make sense. Virtually all mothers, and those with young children especially, work, and usually work very hard. What the

writer of this ill-advised phrase clearly meant was mothers not going out to paid work, but it is time people realized that there are in reality few "non-working women" and practically no non-working mothers.

It is also high time that the usage which confines the word "work" to gainful employment outside the home was scrapped.

Cataloguing the labours of love

How an assistant keeper of the Public Records Office uncovered a political love story and a singular marriage

Shortly after Jane Cox joined the Public Records Office as assistant keeper she became pregnant. Her employers then decided that she was not worth training and gave her a roomful of boxes to catalogue instead. They contained the papers of Ramsay MacDonald.

Twenty years later, the love letters she found among the boxes (from MacDonald, the illegitimate son of a Scottish peasant, and Margaret Gladstone, the young Kensington lady who was to become his wife) form a book, A Singular Marriage, which Cox has

edited and which reveals an extraordinary love story. Despite coming from opposite extremes of the social and economic spectrum, Margaret and Ramsay fused so perfectly and adored each other so completely that their life together, according to their youngest daughter, Sheila, was one of "radiant love, comradeship and achievement".

The book has been something of a mission for Cox, now 46 and a principal assistant keeper at the PRO. At the time of her discovery, Cox's knowledge of Britain's first Labour prime minister ex-

tended no further than the popular view that he had betrayed his party in 1931 by cutting National Insurance benefits and heading a coalition Government in order to save the country from financial disaster. But the image of him that emerged from his letters was of a loving, witty husband committed to his family and his political beliefs.

"I just couldn't bear the way this delightful man had been so misjudged by history," Cox says. "I became terribly engrossed in it."

Even so, it was a long time before she got round to squeezing their love letters into a book. "I had my children, divorced, remarried (to a colleague) and time passed and it was just lurking in the back of my mind." After spending three years organizing the 1986 Domesday Exhibition she wondered what she would do to keep going; then she remembered the MacDonalds.

The book chronicles Ramsay and Margaret's relationship from their first meeting, when Margaret volunteered to help the fervent young agitator who was to help found Britain's Labour movement, through her marriage proposal to him on the steps of the British Museum, the birth of their six children, and their numerous triumphs and disasters, both personal and public. As he trod the lonely campaign trail, the outwardly cold and prickly Ramsay would write to Margaret, sometimes twice, even three times a day, filling his letters—as she did hers—with intimate badinage and personal trivia. "Now all love & kisses & blessings & nighties..." he signed off after five years of marriage.



For the record: Jane Cox, editor of the MacDonalds letters Cox joined the PRO after reading history at London University and marrying a fellow student when she was 23. It was the time of the genealogy boom, which inspired her to write a do-it-yourself guide to ancestor tracing. Her only other attempt to find work had ended abruptly when, in search of a holiday job, she had failed Woolworth's entrance exam. Calculating the cost of half a dozen bootlaces at tuppence ha'penny each proved to be quite beyond her. Reading through the MacDonald papers, Cox was great-

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Peking Open... (Advertisement for Peking Open, featuring a figure skater)

July 28 1988

PARLIAMENT

Identity card call is resisted

Pressure from MPs for a system of identity cards to be introduced...

He said that there were no plans at present to introduce such a system...

Mr Anthony Favell (Stockport, C) said that it would be helpful to the security forces...

Mr Stewart said that the security forces in Northern Ireland already had powers under the emergency legislation...

Mr William Ross (Londonderry East, OUP) said that if there could be a card to identify under-age drinkers...

Mr Stewart said that this was not a simple issue. There were many questions involved...

Mr James Kilfedder (Down North, UUP) said that such a system could be linked, as in other countries...

Mr Stewart: We do keep this under review.

Kinnock attacks Thatcher record on trade balance

Mr Neil Kinnock attacked the Government's record on the balance of trade...

In the last session of Prime Minister's questions before the summer recess...

Was the Prime Minister at all concerned that these trade figures would give further ammunition to her dear and close friend Mr Edward Heath...

Mr Kinnock: She speaks of success. How does she arrive at the conclusion that if one month's deficit is a freak...

Mr Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition: Does the Prime Minister recall that four months ago she told me that the balance of payments deficit of more than £1 billion for February was a freak?

PRIME MINISTER

There have now been four such deficits in six successive months. Were they all freaks or proof of the Chancellor's brilliance?

Mr David Steel, rising to cheers to ask his last question as joint leader of the SLD...

Yes, there has been a deficit on current account, partly accounted for by very high investment in this country...

Is the expected trade deficit of £10 billion by the end of the year evidence of that recovery?

Mr Thatcher: The evidence of recovery comes from throughout the country in a higher standard of living...

Having heard what he has to say, I can understand why the Labour Party is at last selling off the family steel tin.

Mr Derek Fatchett (Leeds Central, Lab): Is she saying that it does not matter how great the deficit becomes?

Mr Thatcher: No. We are not complacent about it in any way. There is a great budget surplus and a balance which is not a cost to the public sector.

Private sector finances showed a readiness by outside investors to invest in the United Kingdom. She would have thought that the Labour Party would have been in favour of higher investment in industry.



The Prime Minister should make time before she leaves for Australia tomorrow to meet Mr Kinnock and give him a little training to guard against possible long-term unemployment...

Cricket 'must fend for itself'

Despite poor performances by the England cricketers in recent matches, Mr John Wakeham, the Leader of the Commons...

He said that although he had been at school with Peter May, the chairman of the England selectors...

His comments came in response to questions from Conservative MPs seeking a debate on the state of English cricket.

Mr James Hill (Southampton, Test, C) spoke of a most serious situation in schools where cricket was mostly ignored...

Mr Thatcher welcomed the move by groups of estate agents to draw up a code of practice...

She said that the code was not a threat but a challenge. The code was to be ethical.

He asked the Prime Minister to consider introducing legislation to bring the law of England more into line with that of Scotland...

Mrs Thatcher: Pre-emptive groups of estate agents are getting together to try to formulate a code of practice. That is welcome news.

I hope that it will be successful, but so far we had not thought of making it statutory.

Private bids sought for new Severn crossing

The Government had decided to give the private sector an important opportunity to participate in providing the second crossing of the River Severn...

He also announced that tolls for the present bridge would be increased to £1 for cars and £2 for lorries with effect from September 1, next year.

The statement was condemned by the Opposition as an attempt to dampen down anger at the doubling of the tolls and the abandoning of any possibility of a free estuarial crossing.

Mr Channon said that the Severn Bridge was important to Wales and to economic development on both sides of the estuary.

Essential geo-technical and hydrological surveys were being carried out urgently and would be completed early next year.

Promoters would be asked to submit proposals on two bases: to design and build the new bridge and to finance and operate it...

In either case, the costs would be recovered through tolls. Promoters would be asked to indicate possible completion dates and the toll levels associated with them.

"We also need to take immediate steps to place the existing bridge on a sound footing. This is required to meet the objectives laid down when tolls were first introduced in 1966."

TRANSPORT

The accumulated deficit of the bridge is now approaching £100 million. It is therefore not simply going for the most obvious solution which was to build the bridge by public money?

The statement was an attempt to dampen down anger on both sides of the bridge at the doubling of the tolls and the fact that he was totally abandoning any possibility of a free estuarial crossing.

Mr Channon said that it was the Labour Party which introduced tolls on the bridge. When in office, Labour had tolls and when out of office said it would not have them.

The statement had advanced the matter considerably further. "I have no particular preference. I am very happy to see how the competition goes."

Mr Gwyn Jones (Cardiff North, C) said that the increase in tolls would not be warmly welcomed in Wales.

in tolls would not be warmly welcomed in Wales. There would always be a response of wanting something for nothing.

The only appropriate consolation for these increases would be Mr Channon's firmest commitment that the second crossing would be in place by 1996 at the latest.

Mr Channon said that in real terms tolls were lower than they were 20 years ago and even after the increase they would be lower than those on other estuarial crossings.

Mr Roy Hughes (Newport East, Lab) said the main access in and out of Wales should not be handed over the private sector.

Mr Channon said he would examine that matter.

Brittan 'is right for the post'

The Prime Minister had made clear when she nominated the British members of the European Commission four years ago that she did not think that they should stay in office too long...

Mr James Conaghan (Gillingham, C) sought an assurance that Mr Channon would conduct the most exhaustive study into wind shielding.

Mr Channon said he would do this. "We are minded at present that the bridge should have wind shielding because winds on the Severn are thought to be considerably greater than on the Thames."

Mr Winston Griffiths (Bridgend, Lab) said if the bridge were to be built entirely with private money, there would not be access to money from the European Regional Development Fund...

Mr Channon said he would examine that matter.

TV delay is denied

Mr John Wakeham, Leader of the House, told MPs that he could not give a date for the resumption of television cameras into the Commons...

He denied a suggestion from Mr Tony Banks (Newham North West, Lab) that the committee considering the arrangements for the television experiment had been dragging its feet.

There was no delay on the part of the committee (of which he is chairman) in trying to deal with complex issues.

Ordinance contracts

The Ministry of Defence has reached agreement, subject to final contract, with Royal Ordnance for that company to supply about 80 per cent of the ministry's requirements for specified explosives...

Mr Timothy Salisbury, Under Secretary of State for Defence Procurement, said in a written reply that the cumulative value of the contracts was about £400 million.

King not to be drawn on killings

The issues raised by the Gibraltar shootings of IRA terrorists were not being raised across the floor of the Commons...

He was replying to Mr Kevin McNamara, chief Opposition spokesman on Northern Ireland, who had been subjected to Conservative protests when he questioned the actions of security forces at the time.

The subject was raised by Mr Martin Flanagan (Sheffield, Hillsborough, Lab), who asked what assessment Mr King had made of the representations in Northern Ireland of the killings of three suspected terrorists in Gibraltar.

Mr King: The inquiry is to be held in September by the Gibraltar coroner. It will address matters of substance and it is therefore not appropriate for me to comment any further at this stage.

Mr Flanagan: In view of the seriousness with which this matter is being regarded, and assuming that proper precautions will be taken in the interests of safety...

interests of safety, will give an assurance that the Government will not intervene to stop the SAS soldiers who carried this out from going to the 'inequest'?

Mr King: The position has been made clear by the Foreign Secretary and the Secretary of State for Defence and I make it clear as well. It is very much our hope that the fullest evidence can be given. It is in everybody's interest, not least so that nobody can be in any doubt what an appalling outrage would have been committed in Gibraltar had the terrorist plans not been interrupted.

Mr Patrick Cormack (South Staffordshire, C): The last remarks are those which should go out from this House because two things are not in dispute. Those people were terrorists and they were planning the most ghastly outrage in the history of the IRA.

Mr King: I agree entirely and it cannot be said often enough. It is quite outside the realms of any previous outrage which can be recalled, what might have happened if more than 60 kilograms of Semtex had gone off in the centre of Gibraltar.

Mr King: We are all agreed that it would have been the most terrible atrocity if those 60 kilograms had gone off in the centre of Gibraltar.



Mr McNamara: Questioned Government actions

Mr McNamara: These are not weasel words because out of that confined space in the centre of Gibraltar, the IRA, that it was their members who were there, engaged on active service.

Why did the Government take the action it did about that car when it believed that the explosion would not take place until the Tuesday when the procession took place?

Conservative MP: Weasel words!

Mr McNamara: These are not weasel words because out of that confined space in the centre of Gibraltar, the IRA, that it was their members who were there, engaged on active service.

Mr King: The issues he raises are not for debating across the floor, but are extremely germane to the inquiry and will be thoroughly examined and no doubt will be thoroughly examined by counsel representing the people as well.

Minister is encouraged by inter-government meeting

Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, was closely questioned by MPs who he reported to the Commons at question time on Wednesday...

Mr King said that among the subjects discussed were security, proposals for disadvantaged areas of Belfast, for promoting fair employment, the International Fund and relations between the security services and the community.

Mr Dennis Casavan (Falkirk West, Lab) said that there had been reports that the Stalker-Sampson report was discussed and that the British Government had given assurances that disciplinary action would be taken against certain members of the RUC.

Why was disciplinary action not being taken against Sir John Hermon who was clearly unfit to hold the office of chief constable if they believed even half of the allegations in Mr Stalker's book?

Mr King said that yesterday's meeting was extremely encouraging. It did indicate the increasing good will between the RUC and the Garda.

Mr King said that the matter was one of concern. He was still waiting for the full report. The Taoiseach was on record as expressing horror at the outrage committed, but it was a little early to identify how the problem arose.

There was a considerable number of people passing backwards and forwards and, in general, security information had been extremely good. They were meeting as the tragic funeral was taking place of the Hanna family.

Mr Ivor Stanbrook (Orpington, C) asked whether Mr King had asked the representatives of the Irish Government to justify the restrictions it had recently placed unilaterally upon the extradition process from the republic to the UK?

Mr King said that he had made clear his concerns, and he had done so again yesterday, about the problems which had arisen in the extradition field.

Abbey National under fire

The following report of a Commons debate on the Building Societies (Transfer of Business) Regulations appeared in later editions yesterday.

Building societies wishing to convert to plc status should face a stricter requirement to present a balanced case to their members. Mr Christopher Smith, an Opposition spokesman on economic affairs, said when speaking on the regulations...

The Opposition remained fundamentally opposed to conversion and especially to the Abbey National's rush to convert. There was widespread unease at the prospect of building societies, which had all the benefits of mutuality, becoming just another financial institution.

If conversion was proposed, it was important that the case for and against was put impartially to members before they voted.

The Abbey National had sent out literature on conversion to members. There was no solid content to this document. "Quite apart from taking a patronising tone, it gives no concrete reasons about why conversion to plc status is a suitable and sensible option. It is also very one-sided."

Teachers' status 'being harmed'

The following report of a Commons debate on the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Order appeared in later editions yesterday.

The Government should restore to teachers their most basic employment right, that of collective bargaining with their employers, Mr Derek Fatchett, an Opposition spokesman on education, said.

Opening a debate on the order, he said that the Government had undermined the status of teachers.

There was no evidence that it had a strategy to deal with recruitment or low-morale problems. Until the Government was able to do that, it would be difficult to deliver high-quality education.

All the evidence showed that it was teachers doing more than was expected of them contractually who had kept the GCSE on the road this year.

Call for 'balanced case to be made'

and against was put impartially to members before they voted.

The Government's order was not tough or strict enough. It left the board of the society to put the case to the members.

The board, having decided to recommend conversion, will undoubtedly tend to be partisan to what they put the case.

The necessity for impartiality and balance should apply to all documents sent during the conversion campaign.

"If an argument were needed for that, the Abbey have just provided us with it."

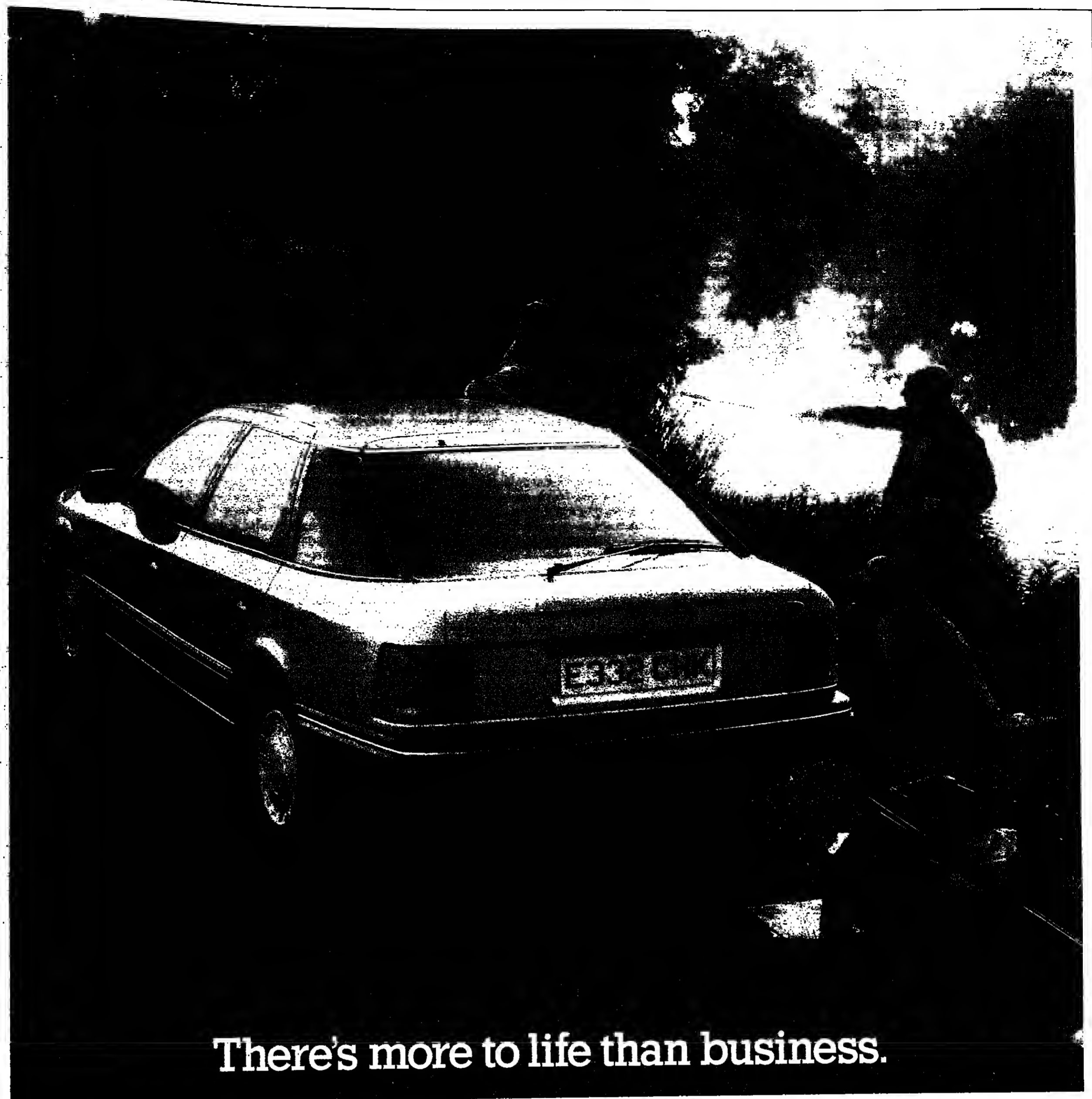
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**TIMES  
DIARY**

MARTIN FLETCHER

Only now are the real reshuffle stories coming out. First, there's the reason why it was not announced until 7.15pm on Monday, positively the worst time for the morning newspaper. Richard Ryder, promoted from the Whips office to the Ministry of Agriculture, was largely to blame for that. He got a call summoning him to No 10 but thought it was a practical joke. He got another 30 minutes later asking where on earth he was.

Kenneth Clarke, promoted to Health Secretary, apparently tried to slip into his new department for the first time via the back door, but was twice refused entry by the doorman. There were celebrations among senior civil servants at the Ministry of Defence who heard they were losing a minister of state, and thought it was Lord Treigame. The champagne bottles were hastily recocked when they learnt it was the well-liked Ian Stewart. At the Northern Ireland Office officials were still recovering on Wednesday from celebrations to mark the departure of John Stanley, a man obsessed by his own security and said to have deeply disliked the province.

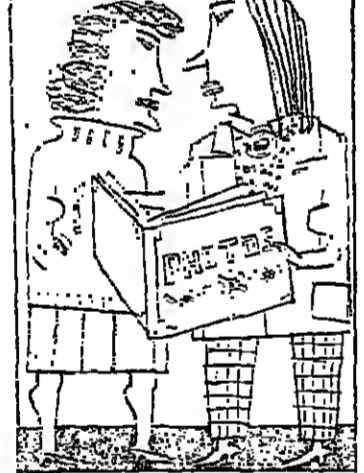
But the real star of the reshuffle appears to have been David Waddington, the Chief Whip, who kept it all so secret that even Lord Young, the Trade Secretary, was initially unaware that he was losing Clarke, his deputy. Indeed some ministers first learnt of the reshuffle through Whitehall's most reliable grapevine, their chauffeurs.

So who will Neil Kinnock propose as Britain's second European Commissioner given that Mrs Thatcher has re-appointed Stanley Clinton Davis? It will not, I gather, be the widely tipped Eric Varley, the former Labour Energy Secretary, who has left active politics for business. The former Chancellor, Denis Healey, would almost certainly turn it down. But there are four other possibilities. They are former senior ministers Mervyn Rees, Peter Shore and Lord (Roy) Mason and Lord (Bernard) Donoghue, erstwhile adviser to James Callaghan. Rees turned down the job when offered it by Callaghan in 1980 but would seriously consider it now. However, the advantage of either Mason or Donoghue is that beleaguered Labour would avoid a by-election.

Expect a change in Mrs Thatcher's domestic fly-abons. Her advisers have delicately suggested that her semi-regular Scottish mors served merely to underscore the impression that she believes Scotland to be a foreign country. From now on, only day trips to Glasgow and Edinburgh akin to those she would make in Birmingham, Liverpool or Manchester.

Critics of Lord Young's £6 million campaign to promote awareness of the Single European Market in 1992 should think again. Quite apart from the fact that 81 per cent of British businessmen now know the significance of the year, the Trade Secretary's office has been discreetly approached by the Belgians, Germans, Greeks, Danes, Dutch, French, Spanish and Irish — indeed every EEC country except Ireland, Portugal and Italy — with a view to emulating the campaign in their own countries.

**BARRY FANTONI**



John Lee, the tourism minister, has some rather disgruntled undertlings. On Tuesday he visited the Newmarket racing museum and looked around some training stables, in the course of which his private secretary, Jim O'Donnell, picked up what he believed was a wonderful hot tip at 20-1. An accompanying press officer relayed this back to his colleagues in London, who all rushed to put their money on. Unfortunately, Superbest, running in the Stewards Cup at Goodwood, came 15th out of 28.

I didn't believe anyone took the plot of Labour MP Chris Mullin's novel, *A Tory British Coup*, seriously, but it is certainly without those fine upstanding comrades who edit the hard-left journal *Labour Briefing*, who have just run a review of the recent television series. The writer, one Chris Knight of the Lewisham East Labour party, declares that Britain's first hard-left prime minister, Harry Perkins, was in danger of being toppled because he lacked "a sufficiently-organized, centralized, ruthless alternative to the utterly ruthless state machine of the ruling class." It goes on to say that a feminist or Socialist government would face exactly the same problems, and would have to be supported by "an organized revolutionary movement". Workers would occupy the factories, streets and major public buildings; Soviets would be set up to form a new state machine on which the administration could rely; the generals, advisors, judges and civil servants would be abolished and all serious, advanced, judges and civil servants would be necessary, and "the existing armed forces would be disbanded, split, won over where possible". In short, working-class insurrection would be the answer. Knight appears to be serious.

News, meanwhile, of the latest literary offerings by the nine-novel (though none lately) Douglas Hurd, brief and snappy, for Tusans on holiday. It is an Agatha Christie-style short story to be published in a Sunday colour supplement. The subject? Politicians on holiday in Tuscany.

As leader of the new party my first task is to institute a fundamental review of our inherited portfolio of Alliance policies. The party has a wealth of talent to call upon in this process, and I intend to ensure that we emerge with a resolutely futuristic agenda, even if its underlying values have old political roots.

It is with values that I shall be concerned in this article. For unless those are right the policies, or their implementation, will fail. No amount of law making or law enforcing can overcome a deficiency there. That is all the more so where the traditional source of guardianship and renewal of society's moral foundations — the churches — exert a sadly diminishing influence.

Like it or not, this fact, together with the weakening of community and peer group influence, have a tendency to make high priests of politicians. That we are ill-fitted to the task may be only too apparent. But it does mean that the values personified and the attitudes struck by the government of the day have an increasing impact on the quality of life at large.

On this from the Thatcher years, it is increasingly realized, a dramatic failure, whose pervasive effects are in no way offset by a real degree of economic success.

This failure has been com-

**Paddy Ashdown spells out his priorities as leader of the SLD**

# My plans for the centre

pounded by three particular delusions. The first is to believe that a society can avoid collective schizophrenia if it lives its work life by one set of values and its family life by another. The second is to believe that the ends of increased competitiveness can be justifiably achieved on the back of anti-social motivations. The third is to pretend that a gross widening of divisions of wealth and opportunity can be warranted by an increased "trickle down".

The overall effect has been a marked coarsening of public and private life which threatens to undo the purely economic benefits. Above all, the relentless, if usually unspoken, appeal of this government to self-interest has wreaked havoc. As Mrs Thatcher herself succinctly put it in *Woman's Own* a few months ago, "there is no such thing as Society: only individual men and women and their families". Her occasional appeals to St Francis and St Paul are unconvincing. One example of Thatcherite

values is to be found in the privatization programme, dogmatically extended (prisons, the BBC next?) on the credo that anything done for profit and oneself is necessarily better than anything done by or for the community. Think, too, of the demoralization to which teachers and nurses have been reduced by the calculated underfunding of their crucial efforts, and the endless denigration to which state education has been subjected these last nine years.

The tragic truth is that a democracy such as ours, with no separation of powers, in an increasingly centralized state endowed with a grossly unrepresentative voting system, and informed by a perniciously partisan popular press, has indeed diminished our society to the narrow confines of its own doctrinaire vision.

It is instructive to note the reaction of Mrs Thatcher's three predecessors. Edward Heath's anathema is total and public. Lord Stockton, albeit with more finesse and wit, found it impos-

sible to ally himself with her values. As for Lord Home, his very silence seems eloquent. Their ilk feel more at home with a 1949 official Tory Party statement about "the inability of purely materialist philosophies to read the riddle of life and achieve the necessary subordination of economic progress to the needs of the human spirit".

As it is, Mrs Thatcher claims the one as insistently as she turns her back on the other. She claims, that is, credit for Britain's economic successes while denying all responsibility for its parallel social collapse.

The simple certitudes of the law and order campaign which propelled Mrs Thatcher to power in 1979 have now given way to sullen bemusement. For deny it as she may, it is no accident that, despite massive increases in police numbers, powers and equipment, we have the largest (still growing) prison population in Europe; that with unparalleled wealth a fifth of the population still exist below benefit level; that violent crime and fraud

increase inexorably throughout society; that drug addiction is out of control; that we have an unprecedented problem in terms of single-parent rearing (over a fifth of new births), marriage breakdown, promiscuousness and homelessness; that the notion of community is everywhere in retreat.

The challenge for us, therefore, is to seek to reverse the new brutalism. In the economic sphere this means esteeming once again those who do not live only for or by personal profit — such as the teachers, hospital staff and civil servants. It means recognizing and being thankful for those who have a sense of vocation in business — who not only strive to make fair profits but insist on doing it as good citizens. It means encouraging everywhere real participation, real consultation and real quality, so as to tap the knowledge, skill and enthusiasm of every person in the land. Everyone has something to give.

It means restoring job loyalty (in both directions). It involves

recognizing the unacceptable social and human price of the increasing job and firm mobility. It means a revolution in attitudes to shareholding (which we encourage). Why should the United States that is showing the way in ethical investment and behaviour not only on the part of shareholders but of corporations? It involves a radical review of takeovers and mergers so as to recognize more than the absolute right of a usually transient group of shareholders to ignore the other employees, local communities and consumers.

From this sketch it will be seen that our approach must be to treat the free market as servant not master, as a vital but far from sufficient, guarantor of the good society.

The French Revolution at least gave us the trinity of values which make for such a society — liberty, equality and fraternity. The art of politics is to recognize the interdependence of these attributes, and then to achieve a balance between them. Liberty without equality is the law of the jungle. Equality without liberty is the tyranny of the state. Only through fraternity — consensus, cooperation, community and commonwealth — can those other two great forces be reconciled.

That will be our aim.

**Leonie Kramer**

# The dissent over descent

When plans for the Australian bicentenary were first being made everyone assumed that it would be a celebration of the country's achievements. In fact, as Mrs Thatcher, who sets out for Australia today, will discover, it has become the focus for controversial issues.

Doubts have been expressed about the validity of settlement, and there have been noisy attempts to whip up communal guilt about the past by representing the convict system and the treatment of aborigines as wholly reprehensible. The evil that men do has swamped the good that they have done, and even their honourable intentions are dismissed as hypocritical posturing.

The disinformation campaign has been intense, and in essence has been an attack on the British connection. Rumblings of anti-British sentiment have become, in this year, a derisive chorus, drawing on all the clichés and stereotypes relating to accent, dress, and colonial tyranny.

Some of the phrases used in this campaign are self-destructive in their sensationalism. Australia has been described as the "Uria Heep of nations"; its white settlement as "armed invasion"; its history as "generations of dispossession and debauchment, of alienation and exploitation". The word "foreigners" is a term of abuse, especially of the British, in response to such exaggerations.

What is at issue in the fulminations of the critics of the bicentenary is not history but the past. Whether they know it or not, their impressionistic falsifications of the past are a rejection of historical meaning. In its place they favour their personal recollections which supposedly have special validity. As a whole their views, though loudly proclaimed, are as frequently been shown, not those of the Australian community.

It says something about the instincts and values of that community that such a warm reception was accorded to the

1975 announcement by Malcolm Fraser, then prime minister, that life wasn't meant to be easy. I don't for one moment believe that he expected such a welcome for his declaration of austerity. Perhaps, unwittingly, he had tapped into a deep communal suspicion of flamboyance and extravagance.

Among our historical values is admiration for fortitude, self-denial and frugality — epitomized in the figure of "the aussie battler". These are the virtues we have traditionally celebrated, whether exhibited in settling the land or defending the country. To many they seemed to have been betrayed by the careless generosity with public funds which characterized the mid-Seventies.

We were prepared for seven lean years, but not for the continuance of many of the ideological fashions of the Seventies. These have become the focus of debate in the Eighties, and thus it comes about that while 1988 is a celebration for most Australians it has become a dissenter's forum for some well-known people with ready access to media publicity.

They include two Labor cabinet ministers, one of whom announced in January: "It seems to me that we in Australia have a lot to be ashamed about in terms of our history and until we face up to the shame, we cannot satisfactorily celebrate the last 200 years".

It is really the nature of Australian society which is at issue, although certain aspects of this large subject have been selected for special attention — republicanism, immigration policy and multiculturalism, and aboriginal welfare.

These topics have two things in common. They cannot be debated without reference to the idea of Australia itself, and they are being debated without reference to our history, or with reference to an idea of our history which is either misinformed or deliberately misrepresented.

The questions now are how many migrants, how quickly, of what kind and from where — with anxieties about the rate of Asian immigration and the dilu-



tion of British and Irish stock. Some American observers think that Australia is afraid of an increase in population, and that there might be some truth in that. The immigration debate is sharpened by a growing distrust of multiculturalism, which is philosophically confused and in practice divisive. The word itself is suspect. Since there is no such thing as multiculturalism, multiculturalism is a manufactured abstraction.

The reality is that Australia has always been multiracial, and to some extent multilingual, and we have all benefited from the diversification of our community. But multiculturalism signals a new bureaucracy, which operates on the principle that it is necessary to provide benefits to migrants from non-English-speaking backgrounds which go beyond their normal rights and entitlements as citizens. It is an expression of Australia's passion for levelling, of its obsession with equality. In fact, multiculturalism has created powerful lobby groups, some of

which reproduce in Australia the feuds — such as that between Greeks and Turks over Cyprus — which can cause them to lose sight of Australia's interests while re-fighting old wars.

And so to the complicated and distressing question of the aboriginal people — for there is not, as some of the media would have it, an aboriginal problem. There is every kind of aborigine, from those who live and work in the community alongside its many other races, to those who live on social welfare benefits in miserable, often squalid conditions, decimated by alcohol and by idleness.

If one attempts to summarize the history of white-black relationships in Australia, of course one comes up with a fluctuating, complex interaction of fear and trust, hostility and friendship, indifference and neglect, and care and devotion. Now we have discovered that most unhelpful of emotions — guilt — to the extent that one commentator has referred to "the guilt industry".

If many Australians are disturbed and impatient at present it is because, as in discussions of the convict period, only the bad is remembered; and because in the last decade hundreds of millions of dollars have been spent in the name of contradictory policies which avoid defining aboriginality.

We have proved remarkably reluctant to face the facts, even though this is the only way to begin to solve the problems; and we are not helped by strident advice from visitors from abroad who don't have the problems in their own countries, or who have different problems which they wrongly think to be comparable.

So Australia at this moment is an ideological battleground, but the troops are not drawn up simply on party political lines. We have economic rationalists facing socialist planners; promoters of Australian initiative and enterprise confronting advocates of more government handouts; defenders of schooling in basic skills and transmission of the

cultural heritage attacking low standards of achievement, soft options and politicized courses; realists expressing impatience with futurologists and romantic utopians. Though there's nothing novel about these battle lines, they have a distinctively Australian flavour.

Australian conservatives, though they have their intellectual gurus, have been forced to translate classical arguments into local language, just as our writers and painters have acclimated their European inheritance. They are spokesmen for what they call "middle Australia" and they are influential in public debate. The socialists, however, still go by the book, and the book was not a particularly good one to start with.

The Australian utopian visionaries of the late 19th century were men and women of feeling rather than reason, the inheritors of a mixed bag of ideas born-out of European history.

We haven't yet shaken off that political inheritance, though some enlightened people recognize that it has had its day. A Labor minister referred in 1986 to the "exhaustion" of the whole train of ideas deriving from Marxism and Leninism. Others without his courage would silently agree; but there is still no doubt of the left's political force in Australia today.

One could wish that the common sense of the Australian community were better represented by the vociferous minority of media voices, and that governments showed more political will. There continues to be an extraordinary contrast between articulate spokesmen for various intellectual fashions and community values.

This has never been better illustrated than on January 26. While the guilt-laden prophets and critics were trying to spoil the party I spent most of the day in Sydney, together with the two million people who came into the city to celebrate. It was an unforgettable experience.

Dame Leonie Kramer is Professor of Australian Literature at the University of Sydney. This is an edited and abridged version of the annual Ditchley Foundation lecture.

Commentary • ROBERT KILROY-SILK

# Prisoners of indifference

Tory backbencher Roger Sims didn't figure in this week's ministerial promotion list. Probably he never will. But he deserves to be applauded for being one of the few MPs to speak with passion and deep knowledge on the plight of the 16,000 Vietnamese boat people held in closed camps in Hong Kong when the Commons recently debated the future of the colony.

Other MPs referred to their predicament, of course, but most — including a majority of the small number of Labour members who spoke — in a somewhat routine way, as if the problem had to be mentioned, however briefly, because it would be remiss to ignore it.

Roger Sims, though a strict law and order man, has a good record in human rights and roundly rebuked the Government for doing "very little" to solve the problem of the refugees. To begin with, he pointed out, we cannot expect other countries to take more of us, if we are not prepared to do so ourselves. We have to set the example.

Unlike most politicians, and the rest of us, he was not asking others to do what he was not willing to do himself. Eighteen months ago, after visiting the camps and witnessing the appalling conditions, he offered to sponsor the "migration to Britain of the Ba' family, who have been held in camps since 1980. He told the Foreign Office he would try to find accom-

modation and employment for the family, but the offer was rejected out of hand.

The Government wants no such humanitarian gestures. Instead, it sticks to its reluctant promise to admit no more than a measly 428 Vietnamese refugees from Hong Kong over the next two years. Even these have to be related to family groups already here, and will be admitted only at the rate of 20 per month. That's less than half the current monthly birth rate in the camps.

Britain's response to the problem of numbers is totally inadequate. There were 8,000 new arrivals in Hong Kong in the first six months of this year, 4,000 in June alone, compared to only 405 in the same period last year. No wonder that Oxfam should describe the short-term outlook for the refugees as "bleak". Others speak of the 1988 resettlement programme as being "an absolute disaster area".

Leaving aside, for the moment, whether Britain should accept more refugees, there can be no justification for the conditions in which they have been held, as a recent Oxfam report concludes: "The accommodation is poor, the management system offers no role for the family, and there is no sense of community. Control is still the main concern."

To say the accommodation is poor is a classic understatement; it is appalling. How else can one describe such in which families live on top of each other in three

lines of walk-tie bunks with no space to walk between them, with only a thin dirty cloth providing privacy, and long queues for lavatories shared by hundreds?

As other Tory MPs said, the conditions are "inhumane", "intolerable", "disgraceful". All this might be forgivable were the refugees kept there for only a short time. But they are not. The average length of stay is now three and a half years; 3,000 have been there for five years and nearly 300 for more than nine.

Some children have never set foot outside the camps. Some of the adolescents know no other lifestyle.

Similar conditions in Gaza were condemned in the most emotive terms in the well-planned glare of international publicity by Foreign Office minister David Mellor. Neil Kinnock and Gerald Kaufman, Labour's foreign affairs spokesman. Those in our own backyard are discreetly ignored.

I've never actually heard Mellor or Neil complain about the boat people. Gerald's only suggested solution, during the most recent Commons debate, was for the Home Office to encourage the "enhancement of human rights in Vietnam".

Maybe, though I doubt the effect. But the boat people now in Hong Kong surely cannot be asked to await Vietnam's reinductation at the hands of the House of Commons. Neither can we expect other countries to

share the burden of resettlement if we will not acknowledge our own responsibility. International compassion fatigue has already set in. We add to it by our poor example.

The best that the Government is able to come up with, apart from its miserly offer to accept 428 refugees, is to promise that the camps will be as "humane" as possible; that workshops and training and recreation facilities will be provided and, magnanimously, that families will not be split up.

We're supposed to be grateful for this charity. No wonder the refugees are referred to as the "forgotten people". They are, by our government and most of Britain's legislators. True, we didn't cause the problem. No one asked them to make the journey across rough seas in frail boats from Vietnam. But we are responsible for the rotten reception they have had in the West.

These boat people are worse off than convicted criminals. Not only are they innocent of any offence but have probably served a longer sentence than most, in worse conditions, and have no idea of when they will be released. The longer they are held, the more bitter and resentful they will become. They will find it harder to resettle and are likely to become a permanent burden, on someone.

If it won't take action on its own behalf, the Government could at least let Roger Sims resettle the Bachs.

JULY 29 ON THIS DAY 1794

*Lord Macartney (1737-1806) was Britain's first envoy to China, sent there following injustices perpetrated by the Chinese on British subjects. He experienced goodwill and courtesy during his stay, but the Emperor refused to admit a permanent delegation.*

**EMBASSY TO CHINA**

On the 21st the Ambassador and his suite set out for Peking — Lord Macartney and Sir George Staunton in sedan chairs, the officers, etc. in two wheeled carriages — the rest in a kind of covered waggon. They reached Peking about nine o'clock that morning. The streets are not paved, the longest are about six miles, crossing each other at right angles, as in Philadelphia. The walls of the city are of an immense height, and the principal streets terminate at the gates, which are very magnificent. Sumptuous apartments were provided for the suite, and every necessary of life was furnished to them without purchase.

They remained here till the beginning of September, when they were ordered to leave Peking: Lord Macartney and suite set out for Gehol, the Chinese residence of the Emperor. When they reached Gehol, some misunderstanding respecting the mode of presentation prevented the ceremony from taking place till the 14th. Lord Macartney insisted that the ceremonies required to be performed by him before the

Emperor, should be performed by a Chinese of equal rank, before the picture of his Majesty. One of the Prime-Ministers, of whom there are five in China, styled Coloos, having committed some mistake was degraded some steps in his rank, and forced to wear in his head-dress a crow's tail instead of a peacock's, which, it seems, answers there to our stars, garters, ribbands, and other insignia of nobility. It was at last settled, that his Lordship should pay the same respects to the Emperor that he paid on approaching the King of England.

The suite were received in a large tent. The Emperor was carried thither in an open chair, borne by sixteen men. As he passed to the tent the English knelt on one knee; every one of the Chinese prostrated themselves on the ground. The Emperor paid great attention to Lord Macartney, and he and all the gentlemen had presents of silk, purses, fans, etc. The crowd of Mandarins, Princes, and other people of rank, which attended, was almost innumerable.

The next two days were employed in preparations for their return to Peking.

On the day of departure, the Ambassador had an interview with the Minister, and received an answer to the propositions he had made on the 3d, which were refused. The Embassy left Peking after which Lord Macartney and his suite returned to Canton.

We are happy to add, that when the last accounts left Canton, some arrangements had taken place which indicated that some hopes had begun to be entertained, that it was yet possible to obtain the object of the voyage.



1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN Telephone: 01-481 4100

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

GORBACHOV'S NEXT TEST

The plenary meeting of the Soviet Communist Party's Central Committee, which is due to take place in Moscow any day now, will be the first real test of the Soviet system's capacity to reform itself since Mr Gorbachov outlined his vision of change at last month's Communist Party conference.

The official announcement four weeks ago employed the pre-glasnost formula "at the end of July". Since then, there have been few references to its happening at all.

The original announcement indicated that there would be two main subjects on the agenda. In the realm of high politics, the plenum would discuss and ratify the proposals for far-reaching political reform which were approved by the special party conference.

The two subjects look quite distinct. But they are not as distinct as might be supposed. While Mr Gorbachov's address to the party conference concentrated on the restructuring of the party and government apparatus, other speakers - especially those from outside the favoured big cities - returned time and again to growing popular dissatisfaction with food shortages, lack of consumer goods, and the ubiquitous queues.

Unfortunately, this is the converse of the view advocated by Mr Gorbachov and lobbyists for reform. They argue that political and economic change has to come first; only then, they say, will there be a significant improvement in living standards.

The Central Committee plenum should show which option the Soviet leadership has

selected. It could decide to slow the proposed reforms until supplies have been improved (whether by a crackdown on the black market or by emergency buying abroad). It could decide to stick to Mr Gorbachov's original proposals and timetable.

Or it could decide to accelerate and extend the reform programme in the hope that the desired results would appear faster. In that case, it might have to broach the possibility of meeting discontent with force.

The complexity of the problems confronting the Soviet Union as it considers reform is one reason why the outcome of this Central Committee plenum is unusually difficult to predict. But the other reason is the difference that the special party conference may have made, and not only in encouraging uninhibited and sometimes personalized debate.

Some suspected that the party conference was an attempt by Mr Gorbachov to pre-empt the Central Committee. The suspicion was reinforced by the disclosure that his address - in which he called for a Soviet presidential system and a change in the relationship between local government bodies and Communist Party bodies - was not approved by the Central Committee in advance.

The Central Committee members also have their own power to look to. There is an ambiguity about Mr Gorbachov's proposed changes in the administrative structure which has made sections of the party establishment wary. Greater power for government soviets could mean less power for the local party organizations. But it might not work out like that in practice.

These are the questions that Central Committee members will have pondered as the plenum approached. They are also the reason why the outcome, for the first time in many years, is not a foregone conclusion.

NOT SO SIMPLE

There is a saying much beloved of those who live in ethnically complicated societies: if you stay three days, you can write a book, if you stay a week, the book will take you 20 years. The visit which Mayor Ed Koch of New York has just made to Northern Ireland seems - at last - to have taken him the metaphorical week.

On his return, the Mayor took a jab at most of the sacred cows of anti-British feeling. No, he did not believe that British troops there are occupying forces; they are "safeguarding the peace" in a "positive role".

For a Mayor of New York to air such views is about as bad as spitting on the shamrock in full view of the St Patrick's Day parade. A predictable outcry arose against the man who had seen through the sentimentality and anti-British racism which inform the majority of views on Ireland in the north-eastern United States.

The Mayor is well-used to unpopularity and even seems to revel in it. The cynic might say that either Mayor Koch was cleverer than he often makes out or that he is not planning to run for election again. He nevertheless deserves congratulations.

The most remarkable thing about this small furore, of course, is that the Mayor's conclusions were thought remarkable at all. Most of what he said has been true for at least the past two decades and the complexity has been true for centuries.

But the Republican cast of Irish-American attitudes in the United States is formed by attitudes which were born in the first two decades of this century. They were taken over

to the United States and deep-frozen by distance and lack of exposure to developing reality in Ireland itself.

The state of those attitudes is of great interest to Britain. The Provisional IRA, marketing themselves as the true heirs of the martyrs of 1916, still look to the United States for three things: guns, money and psychological support.

The police and FBI have made some progress against gun-running, which involves only a small number of active republicans. They have also made inroads into the capacity of the IRA's public relations arm, Noiraide, to raise money. Responsible Irish-American politicians have also contributed to the discouragement. The psychological support still comes from those politicians with ready access to newspapers and airwaves and who never visit Ireland or who only do so with minds tight shut against the complexities which so struck the Mayor. The overall trend in the public debate in the US has been towards isolating those who support the IRA. The Dublin Government has played a major part in this. The Anglo-Irish Agreement has played its part in aligning the two governments more closely and creating a stronger case abroad.

There is one further complexity to which Mayor Koch might like to put his mind. City and state officials in New York have backed the MacBride Principles, which look like a code for moral behaviour for companies in Northern Ireland but which acts as a powerful discouragement to new investment there. It enjoys the support of not one of the responsible politicians who helped deepen the Mayor's understanding. His views on stopping the further spread of the Principles would be worth hearing.

VOYAGE EAST

It is seven years since Mrs Thatcher last set foot in Australia. 21 years since a British Prime Minister paid a full official visit. Last year's trip by Sir Geoffrey Howe was the first for 15 years by a British foreign secretary. It is not surprising that both governments sense a loss of substance in their relationship. Mrs Thatcher's decision to leave London today to spend part of the recess at Australia's bicentenary celebrations is welcome.

The reasons for past neglect are clear. The British leaders have given lower priority to Australia since joining the European Community. Australia has turned towards its Asian near-neighbours, selling more now to South Korea than to Britain. There have been shifts of geopolitical interest on both sides.

Mrs Thatcher's trip is short of real issues. She will need no persuading by Mr Bob Hawke to press for further liberalization of international trade at the Uruguay round of the GATT talks. The only disagreements are stale ones, on sanctions against South Africa and on Britain's refusal last year to sign protocols to the South Pacific nuclear free zone treaty.

Such a shortage of debate could suggest perfect harmony between them. It might also be that neither Government is very interested in the other's views. The two countries still have important trade and defence links which have important trade and defence links which need preserving. But Mrs Thatcher and Mr

Hawke have much to do to convince their countrymen that their shared interests remain relevant and that the vast efforts of the Royal Family to boost relations between the two countries this year stand for more than old sentiment.

Mrs Thatcher's schedule is a punishing one. It will not be relaxing even if the real workload is light - a little discussion of the Gulf War in Bahrain and Oman, the traditional sparing with Mr Lee Kuan Yew in Singapore, talks on arrangements for students with the Prime Minister of Malaysia.

The only strong interest will centre on her meeting in Thailand with Prince Sihanouk, the former leader of the Cambodian resistance coalition. The Prince, who has been in Jakarta this week for an informal first meeting of all the parties to the conflict, is understood to be hoping for substantive talks with her. She is said so far to be against this.

Mrs Thatcher has so far shown little interest in joining the attempts to find a peace settlement. But it is in western interests to maintain a close watch in order that any real opportunity to help does not slip by. It is possible that Europeans can act as brokers where America cannot; a solution brokered by China and the Soviet Union alone will take little account of western interests.

European approaches

From Mr Nikolai Soskin

Sir, Philip Jacobson's article "Germans' monetary ways tough a raw nerve in France" (July 21), makes incredible reading, or terrifying reading if France's notions of her self-importance are also to apply to this country after 1992. If we are, rightly, regarded as currently having the most successful

economy in Europe how much more would the French wish to prevent us improving on that performance than in the German example given in the article.

Our success is due not only to the proven sound economic policies of this Government but also to no little self-sacrifice by the British people particularly during the earlier years of this decade. Does 1992 mean that we must jeopardise that success and risk

rendering useless the sacrifices by allowing the French to help manage our economy to their advantage rather than our own?

Assisting one's neighbours by being a locomotive is one thing, but covering up for their inequities by letting them drive the train is altogether unacceptable. Yours faithfully, NIKOLAI SOSKIN, 163 Emoyot Avenue, SW3, July 22.

Episcopal amity at conference

From the Bishop of Southern Brazil and others

Sir, Little attention has been given in the media to one of the most important features of the Lambeth Conference. Much of our time is being spent in small groups of about 10 bishops. Each day we study the Bible together, pray, and talk at length about a particular subject.

Like other groups, we come from sharply contrasted backgrounds and cultures and with a variety of theological outlooks. Because of language differences we need the help of interpreters, who translate what we say into Spanish, Portuguese and English.

This diversity, far from dividing us from each other, is mutually enriching. We have grown together in love and respect for one another and are discovering, in our deepening bonds of friendship and common concern for the Church's mission, the essence of what it means to be a member of the Anglican Communion.

Those controversial issues which divide us are as nothing to the mutual love which unites us in Christ. It is neither resolutions nor reports which will be, for us, the principal fruit of this conference, but the close personal relationships which are being formed, which have widened our vision, deepened our faith, and will, we trust, enrich our ministry in our respective dioceses when we return from Canterbury.

- Yours faithfully, J.C. GASTAL (Southern Brazil), J.A. CACERES (Ecuador), J. ESPINOZA (Western Mexico), ROBERT LINCOLN, BARRY RIVERINA, BOB JONES (Wyoming, USA), PETER NOTT (Norwich), T.CLOVIS RECIPE (Northern Brazil), FERNANDO SOARES (Lusitania, Portugal), ELLIOT L. SORGE (Easton, USA), The Lambeth Conference, 1988, The University of Kent, Canterbury, Kent, July 25.

Future of SLD

From Professor Earl Russell

Sir, Martin Fletcher's report of the demise of the SLD (July 22), like so many other such reports, was "grossly exaggerated". What other party can claim, at its low point, to have quadrupled its support in the polls over the past 30 years?

There are, at present, two particular reasons for hope. It is becoming increasingly clear that the electorate will, sooner or later, want an alternative to Thatcherism. It is becoming even clearer, as Robert Kilroy-Silk points out on the same page, that Labour is unable to supply that alternative. It would be only natural for the electorate to abhor a vacuum. Yours faithfully, RUSSELL, House of Lords, July 22.

Windsor papers

From Miss Anne Seagrims

Sir, Having served as the Duke of Windsor's secretary from 1950 to 1954, I feel qualified to voice an opinion in the controversy surrounding Michael Bloch's book, The Secret File of the Duke of Windsor.

My main task as secretary was to assist the Duke in writing his memoirs up to the time he gave up the throne. A King's Story. He told me then that he envisaged another eventual book dealing with all that had befallen him and the Duchess since the Abdication. I was struck by his remarks to this effect, and wrote of them at the time in letters to my family which are still extant.

The Duke's intention appears to me to be fulfilled by Michael Bloch's book, in which the facts are fairly and dispassionately presented. One does not have to be partisan, after reading this well documented study, to conclude that the Duke was treated badly - first prevented from leading a useful life, then criticised for lack of purpose. Yours truly, A. SEAGRIMS, 72 Margravine Gardens, W6, July 25.

Beyond the pale

From Mrs Jo Hawkes

Sir, I, too, was sent a barely legible passport earlier this year (letter, July 25). It was so badly written that it hardly appeared genuine. I sent it back to the head of the issuing office and asked for another written in a legible hand. This was duly sent. I suggest Mrs Davies's daughter should do the same.

Yours faithfully, JO HAWKES, Well House, Front Road, Woodchurch, Kent, July 26.

From Mr A. V. Andersen

Sir, After the usual two months' wait I have just received my new passport, in which my name is spelt twice differently and incorrectly each time. On the cover is A. V. Anderson and inside A. V. Anderson. This may present no problem for European travel with cursory passport controls. However, there are difficulties with visas.

Do I have to start again, cancelling my American holiday? Yours faithfully, A. V. ANDERSEN, The Lacquer Chest, 75 Kensington Church Street, W8, July 26.

Defence of extra hormones in milk

From the Parliamentary Secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Sir, Your leader, "A dishonest pint" (July 23), did less than justice to the facts about bovine somatotrophin (BST).

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food does not sponsor BST, or any other pharmaceutical product. The ministry is responsible for authorising trials and licences of substances to be administered to animals which fall under the Medicines Act 1968. If an application is satisfactory as to safety and quality then the ministry under the legislation must grant the authority for a test, known as an animal test certificate (ATC).

BST applications were referred to the committee of independent experts, the Veterinary Products Committee (VPC), who gave particular attention to the safety of the consumer of milk from animals treated with BST. Having satisfied themselves that the milk was safe for the consumer, ATCs were granted to enable tests for efficiency to go ahead.

You suggest that milk from cows treated with BST should have been withheld from human consumption or been appropriately labelled. The Medicines Act 1968 does not give the minister power to impose such a requirement. The VPC had already said that BST-induced milk was safe.

Your leader argued that secrecy corrodes public support for science and product development. However, the Medicines Act prohibits anyone except the holders of the ATC from disclosing any information by or she receives in connection with the licensing of medicines. The Act, therefore, does not allow agriculture ministers to reveal the details of the trial farms, the animals treated or the sale of their milk.

Once a company has evidence on the efficacy of its product from the authorised trials it may submit an application for a product licence allowing the product to be put on the commercial market. There are applications for product licences before us for this stage which have been referred again to the VPC.

Contrary to reports, the VPC has not recommended refusal of any of these applications. They are still under consideration. The applications are also under consideration by a committee of experts in Brussels, the Com-

Tribunal deposits

From Mr Peter W. Birts

It is regrettable that the Equal Opportunities Commission and some trade unions, while calling for higher levels of compensation from such tribunals, should line up against the Government's proposal to require industrial tribunal applicants with "unreasonable" or "weak" cases to put up a £150 deposit to ensure a hearing (report, July 23).

The availability of such a deposit as a fund from which successful respondents could actually receive a part of their costs incurred in resisting such cases would not only go some way towards remedying the injustice suffered (and understandably resented) by employers, particularly small ones, wrongly taken to a tribunal; it would also help to discourage the pursuit of hopeless cases generally.

Helping mentally ill

From Dr G. P. Pullen

Sir, It was disappointing to see in your editorial, "Message to Mr Moore" (July 18), the very same confusion as was shown in Sir Roy Griffiths's recent report. Your author wrote of the need to provide local community care for "the elderly and the mentally handicapped", but then illustrated the problems by reference to, "the plight of schizophrenics".

Mental handicap and old age are not diseases and the satisfaction of the accommodation needs of the elderly and handicapped by local authorities may well be appropriate. Chronic mental illness, however, is just that - illness. Schizophrenia, for example, is an incurable disease which renders the victim liable to recurrent relapses.

I would like to suggest, however, that the Audit Commission's money efficiently used could be realised by a simple modification of Sir Roy's proposals. The local health authority should be de-

Gathering samphire

From Dr J. L. Crosby

Sir, Mr Lendrum (July 22) appears to be involved in a case of mistaken identity. Surely, the samphire to which he refers is *Critillum*, a somewhat un-

common and not unattractive perennial of cliffs and rocky shores. It is quite clear that Frances Bissell (article, July 16) is referring to *Salicornia*, a quite unrelated species which I remember as growing abundantly on the mudflats of the Wash 60 years ago and which on Miss Bissell's evidence appears to be still common enough.

The relevant species of *Salicornia* are annuals, so leaving the roots when collecting would be useless as well as extremely labourious. Collection of *Salicornia* for food has long been practised, and I well remember as a child in my native Wisbech the seasonal pony carts with bundles of the stuff, and the

School libraries in decline

From Mr Ross Shimmion

Sir, Mr K. D. Watson (July 20) is right to draw attention to the appalling state of school libraries in many parts of the country. Only about 14 per cent of secondary schools in England have posts for professional librarians and few have adequate clerical support; the rest, as Mr Watson says, are "run by a busy teacher whose major responsibilities lie elsewhere".

The Library and Information Services Council for England published a report in 1984 which recommended the provision of a school library service as a statutory requirement, the maintenance and analysis of school library statistics, the provision of adequate clerical support, and the employment of chartered librarians as school librarians pending the availability of people qualified as both teachers and librarians. It also recommended that adequate provision should be made for school library books and other resources.

Sadly, the DES has not responded positively to any of these recommendations. Some local authorities have, however, been able to improve the position: only this week, for example, Hertfordshire have advertised for 15 new posts for professional librarians in schools.

We, at the Library Association, greatly fear that the position is likely to get worse under the provisions of the Education Reform Bill. Under that Bill schools library services, the centrally provided back-up services which support individual school libraries, are likely to be starved of funds because they are not on the secretary of state's mandatory list of approved central services. Also, under local financial management, head teachers may understandably not give high priority to appointing a professional librarian if they are short of teachers.

The provision of school and college libraries is the envy of teachers up and down the country. Under the proposals for its abolition there is no guarantee that the successor boroughs will be able to maintain the high-quality service at an economic cost.

Since last November Kenneth Baker, Angela Rumbold, and Bob Dunn (Department of Education and Science) have all stated in Parliament that £10 million was allocated for the improvement of school libraries in the rate-support grant settlement for 1988-89. However, a survey we have carried out suggests that little, if any, of this money has actually been spent on school libraries because no clear guidance was given to local authorities on this point. In some cases, our letter was the first they had heard of it.

Good schools need good libraries. If they are to get them, they need a clear lead from the secretary of state on staffing, stock provision, and financial support. Otherwise, our school libraries will continue to be described as appalling by astonished visitors from our competitor nations.

Yours faithfully, ROSS SHIMMION (Director, Professional Practice Division), The Library Association, 7 Ridgmount Street, WCI, July 22.

Against Norrington

From the Vice-Chancellor, University of Strathclyde

Sir, In the manner of those earlier, endless letters about the first cuckoo, I wish to refer to the arrival of another unwelcome summer visitor, namely the Norrington league table of examination prowess at Oxford University (details, July 25).

We all look to this great university for inspiration and guidance. It is therefore a pity to note this undue emphasis on examination success. This is not education and I would urge that this misleadingly precise measure of the quality of education be abandoned.

Yours sincerely, GRAHAM HILLS, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, University of Strathclyde, McCance Building, 16 Richmond Street, Glasgow G1, July 25.

In harmony

From Mr G. F. de C. Sizer

Sir, Cooking contentedly in the kitchen today in my twelfth year of retirement, I listened appreciatively to a record put on our gramophone by my wife between her having done the washing and starting to do the ironing.

It reproduced the signature tunes of pre-war BBC dance bands. When "Happy Feet" was playing I tried to recall the words and eventually came up with - for one of the middle hits - the following:

And when they hear a tune, I can't control My dancing heels To save my soul I must have been about 12 years old when I first heard that lyric but only today, 62 years later, did I recognise the word play between "heels" and "sole".

So, what does it matter if in the City the pound rises as long as in Benfleet the penny drops at last? Yours, not discontentedly, GEOFF SIZER, 64 St Mary's Road, Benfleet, Essex, July 25.







INFORMATION SERVICE

Folk festival finds roots



John Hammond: veteran bluesman renowned for his racked intensity

While few of the major attractions at this year's Cambridge Folk Festival could realistically be described as folk acts, the increasingly open house booking policy has produced another strong line-up of modern roots performers. John Hammond, the veteran solo blues singer, guitarist and...

This selective guide to entertainment and events throughout Britain appears from Monday to Friday, followed in the Saturday section by a preview of the week ahead. Items for inclusion should be sent to The Times Information Service, PO Box 7, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XX

BOOKING KEY: \* State available; + Returns only; (D) Access for disabled

LONDON
\* ARTIST DESCENDING: Visual, aural and erotic music... King's Head Theatre, 115 Upper Street N1 (01-226 1916). Tube: Angel/Highbury & Islington. Previews from July 26, 8-9.20. Press night Aug 2, 7.30-8.50. Then Tues-Sun 8.10-9.20. Mats Fri 8.30-9.50pm and Sun 3-4.20pm. Tues-Fri 8.30-9.50pm and Sun 3-4.20pm. Mats Fri 8.30-9.50pm and Sun 3-4.20pm.

LONG RUNNERS: \* Beyond Reasonable Doubt: Queen's Theatre (01-734 1168). ... \* Cats: New London Theatre (01-405 0072). ... \* Follies: Shaftesbury Theatre (01-379 5299).

WORD-WATCHING
starts from page 20
BOLSTROPHEDON
(a) Written alternately from left to right and right to left, like the course of a plough in successive furrows, as in primitive inscriptions in Greek, and other languages, from the Greek bolos = + troche + turn.

FILMS

Also on national release
\* Advance booking possible
COMING TO AMERICA (15): Eddie Murphy as a pampered foreign prince who comes to America to select his own bride. A botched comic vehicle with a touch of sweetness, directed by John Dahl (15 min). Cannon Baker Street (01-935 9772). Progs 2.30, 5.30, 8.10, 11.00.

THE JUNGLE BOOK (U): Revival of the joyous Disney cartoon based on Rudyard Kipling's story, with knockabout visual gags and simple but effective animation (76). Cannon Oxford Street (01-636 0130). Progs 12.45, 8.10, 8.30, 8.45. Notting Hill Coronet (01-727 6705). Progs 1.50, 4.00, 6.20, 8.30. Odéon High Street Kensington (01-622 8644). Progs 1.30, 3.30, 5.30, 8.45.

TOP FILMS AND VIDEOS

LONDON: (1) Crocodile Dundee II, (2) The Untouchables, (3) The Untouchables, (4) The Untouchables, (5) The Untouchables, (6) The Untouchables, (7) The Untouchables, (8) The Untouchables, (9) The Untouchables, (10) The Untouchables.

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1628
ACROSS
1 Tip over (6)
4 Blister skin disease (6)
9 Draw out (7)
10 Smaller typewriter size (5)
11 Flag (4)
12 Large African lake (8)
14 Summon by wave (6)
15 Wan (6)
18 NE Transvaal scrubland (8)
20 Race colour (4)
22 Raw, inexperienced (5)
23 Trench rear bank (7)
25 Union soldier (6)
26 Fabric stiffener (6)

Tennessee Williams
Cat on a Hot Tin Roof
Lytlington Tonight & Mon at 7.30
Tomorrow at 2.15 & 7.30
NATIONAL THEATRE
01-928-2252

ENTERTAINMENTS
EVENTS
WEMBLEY ARENA 01-600 1234
WALTON WOODS 01-833 2222
OPERA & BALLET
ROYAL OPERA HOUSE 01-240 1000
THE ARCADE BALLET
LONDON FESTIVAL
THEATRES

THEATRE
ROYAL OPERA HOUSE
THE ARCADE BALLET
LONDON FESTIVAL
THEATRES

JAZZ
STEPHANE GRAPPELLI: He celebrated his 80th birthday earlier this year. On display tonight with his usual jazz accompanists, Martin Taylor and Jack Sewing. Theatre Royal, King St, Bristol (0272 26388) 8pm, £7-£9.50.

GALLERIES
FRANCIS PICABIA (1879-1953): An extensive career survey for a major Dutch painter. The Courtyard, Royal Scottish Academy, Princes St, Edinburgh (031 556 821). Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2-6pm, £2 until Sept 4.

OTHER EVENTS
THE LONDON FESTIVAL OF NEW CIRCUS: See caption. Jubilee Gardens, South Bank, London SE1. Today until August 14.

OPERA
RAVEL DOUBLE BILL: L'Enfant et les sortilèges and L'heure espagnole return in Glyndebourne, highly acclaimed, Soudak directed production, now conducted by Graeme Jenkins. M Shed, London SW1 (01-837 5517).

CONCERTS
EARTH SHAKES: Mahler's Das Lied von der Erde is heard from Carolyn Williams, mezzo-soprano, John Mitchell, tenor, and the BBC Philharmonic under Kurt Sanderling. But first he conducts Schumann's Symphony No 4. Royal Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, London SW7 (01-837 5822).

ROCK
JANE SIBIRY: Canadian singer, compared to Joni Mitchell and Laura Anderson, but with her own delicate, dreamy style. Accompanied by her full band. JCA, The Mall, London SW1 (01-930 3647) 8pm, £5-7.50.

WALKS
HISTORIC WESTMINSTER: Meet Westminster tube, 2.00pm, £2.50 (also next Fri). AN HISTORIC PUB WALK - DICKENS'S HOMELIFE: Meet St Paul's Underground, 7.30pm, £2.50.

LAST CHANCE
THE EXPERIENCE OF LANDSCAPE: Arts Council touring exhibition of paintings, drawings and photos, reflecting Britain's preoccupation with landscape over the last 40 years. Ends this weekend at the South Bank, London SE1 (01-328 3020).

THE FESTIVAL OF LONDON may have died a sudden and premature death but the London Festival of New Circus continues in the South Bank's Jubilee Gardens (see Other Events listings). New Circus is circus of the imagination, of participation and spectacle and this year it includes troupes from all corners of the globe.

ART GALLERIES
SOUTH PACIFIC
KISS ME KATE
THE MOUTSETRAP

THEATRE
ROYAL OPERA HOUSE
THE ARCADE BALLET
LONDON FESTIVAL
THEATRES

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LONDON FESTIVAL
THEATRES

TELEVISION AND RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear and Jane Rackham

BBC1
6.00 Coast to Coast
6.35 Leon Errol in Stage Fright

4.25 Film: Friend or Foe (1981)
Second World War drama about two young London evacuees

ITV/LONDON
6.00 TV-am begins with The Morning Programme

6.00 LWT Weekend News 6.15
Police 5 with Shew Taylor

A match for the boys?



Substitute stars: Patricia Kerrigan, as ace player Chrissie Buchan, and members of the Real Falkirk Table Football Club get ready for the kick off of a new drama series (BBC1, 9.30pm)

TELEVISION CHOICE

It was once suggested to Bill Shankly, the crazy Scotsman who created the modern Liverpool, that football was becoming a matter of life and death.

Laughter in the air

RADIO CHOICE

It augurs well for Russell Davies's 12-part series Radio Fun (Radio 4, 12.25pm) that he begins his history of radio comedy without making an already rich brew even richer by himself putting on a funny hat.

BBC2
6.55 Open University: Science - A Day in the Life. Ends at 7.20.

7.30 Ebony includes 11-year-old Colette Lyn helping to examine how black children are portrayed on television

12.00 Women in View (r)
12.20 Business Daily

6.00 What the Papers Say with Paul Foot of the Daily Mirror
6.15 Right Talk. (see Choice)



Armada reports from Fiona Armstrong (ITV, 4.10pm)

7.30 Elbowy includes 11-year-old Colette Lyn helping to examine how black children are portrayed on television

12.00 Women in View (r)
12.20 Business Daily

6.00 What the Papers Say with Paul Foot of the Daily Mirror
6.15 Right Talk. (see Choice)

SIEMENS TELOS-at last a remote control hearing aid. Better hearing at your fingertips. TELOS\* is the most remarkable development in hearing instrument technology for many years.

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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Philips profit falls on Far East competition

Philips Lamps Holdings, the Dutch electrical group, reported pre-tax profits down from 783 million guilders (£117 million) to 588 million guilders (£163 million) in the six months ended June after intense competition in its Far East markets.

Aaronson disappoints

Disappointing figures from Aaronson Bros, the chipboard manufacturer - profits up just 11 per cent to £3.17 million in the six months to end-March despite the strength of the construction boom - clipped 9p off the shares to 116p yesterday.

Profit falls at Dalepak

Shares in Dalepak Foods, the maker of grillsteaks and frozen pies, slipped 6p to 81p yesterday on news of pre-tax profits of £1.13 million, £392,000 lower, for the year to end-April.

PSN advertising lift

Portsmouth and Sunderland Newspapers, the publisher and contract printer, raised profits by £326,000 to £1.797 million in the 13 weeks to July 2, despite the loss of contracts to print the Guardian and the Observer at its Portsmouth plant.

Barclays profits must stay the pace

Barclays Bank has been breaking speed records in its dash for growth. It is still too soon to say, however, whether it will suffer the banking equivalent of grain strain before it reaches the tape.

Detractors argue that Barclays has got itself into the wrong race. There is no point piling on assets for their own sake - the real race is, or should be, in profit growth and return on capital.

Broad Street

Before the "Gulliverization" of Broad Street Group began six months ago, it was said that everyone had three trays



Instead of the usual "in," "out" and "pending," they were labelled "in," "out" and "too difficult," with papers in the last forming the highest pile.

but further acquisitions are inevitable. Analysts are looking for pre-tax profits for the year to end-March, 1989, of a shade over £2.3 million, comprising £1 million each for financial PR and its other businesses.

The current share price is 45p, 18 per cent above Mr Gulliver's acquisition cost of 38p share. The prospective multiple is 13.5, reflecting high hopes from the greater Gulliverization of Broad Street.

Lex Services

The October stock market crash bruised not only the Yuppie brigade but also Lex Services, whose shares in the aftermath slumped from 539p to 230p.

Opec calls crisis talks to stop price slide

Dr Subroto, the former Indonesian oil minister and Opec's new general secretary, has called an emergency meeting of the cartel's price monitoring committee in an attempt to halt the slide in world oil prices.

Japanese invest in Wall St 'boutique'

Lodestar Partners, the American "boutique" founded by two executives who headed the mergers and acquisitions and corporate finance departments at Merrill Lynch, has become the latest spin-off operation to attract huge finance from a large Japanese financial institution.

OFT studies Goodman bid

The Office of Fair Trading has been scrutinizing the proposed £1.7 billion takeover by Goodman Fielder Watte, the Australasian food group, of Rank Hovis McDougall since news of the hostile bid plan first emerged, an OFT spokesman said yesterday.

Construction 'to grow 9.5%'

Construction growth this year is expected to be 9.5 per cent, according to the National Council of Building Material Producers. The rate of growth is expected to ease back to 2.5 per cent next year before falling 0.5 per cent in 1990.

Large advertisement for Heinz products. Features a portrait of Dr. Anthony J.F. O'Reilly, Chairman and Chief Executive. Text includes: 'Sales Break The \$5 Billion Barrier', 'For the 24th consecutive year, H.J. Heinz Company surpassed all previous records for financial growth.', 'Sales \$5,244,230,000', 'Pre-Tax Profits \$622,573,000', 'After Tax Profits \$386,014,000', 'Net earnings up: 14%', 'Earnings per share up: 17.8%'. The ad also discusses market trends and the company's expansion strategy.

Telfos lifts bid for Runciman

Telfos Holdings, the revitalized engineering group, has raised its offer for Walter Runciman, the shipping, securities and insurance group, by another £2.5 million to £31.58 million.

Spice Islands sale raises £30m for UB

United Biscuits is raising more than £30 million by selling Spice Islands, a US supplier of spices and herbs, to Fleischmann Yeast, the US consumer yeast manufacturer.

Table of Company Briefs. Columns include company name, pre-tax profit, EPS, and dividend. Companies listed include Hill & Smith, Jos Webb, Nthof Scot Inv, Rombey Trust, Raglan Prop-Tst, J.L. Jacobs, Forminster, Ewart, Boscombe Prop, St. Andrew Tst, Derby Tst, and Conroy Pet.

Mortgage Rate Change

Allied Irish Banks plc, announces that its Home Mortgage Rate will alter from 9.5% to 11.5% with effect from close of business on the 29th July 1988. APR 12.1%.



STOCK MARKET

WALL STREET

Cash-raising fears knock Lloyds

Reports that Lloyds Bank will unveil a big cash-raising exercise with its interim figures today took much of the steam out of the banking sector in after-hours trading last night.

Lloyds finished 10p lower at 298p amid whispers that it was going to raise about £300 million to help finance an important acquisition in the financial services sector. Excited speculators said that it needed to diversify at home or expand abroad and were talking of a possible bid for Abbey Life, up 4p at 321p, or Standard Chartered, the troubled international banking group, which was 25p higher at 499p.

But leading brokers were sceptical. One commented: "I doubt it very much. Lloyds is not the most aggressive of banks and this is just not its style."

The market is expecting big things from Lloyds which is rounding off the clearing banks' reporting season. Analysts are forecasting a 27 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £470 million.

Yesterday it was the turn of Barclays Bank to report its first-half performance. As forecast in this column, the figures turned out to be way above market expectations with the pre-tax figures recovering strongly from a loss of £40 million to a profit of £618 million. But the Lloyds cash-raising talk cut short Barclays' celebrations. Its share price ended 7p lower at 402.5p.

Even so, some stockbrokers are having second thoughts about Barclays. Smith New Court now regards it as an

"outstanding buy" and has upgraded its profit figure for the full year by at least £100 million to £1.38 billion. Smith says that the second half should provide £41 million of interest from the group's £924 million rights issue and also benefit from business that has already been written in the first half.

Smith is forecasting that the net dividend will rise from 22p to 22.5p. The shares, on a multiple of 4.6, will yield 7.5 per cent.

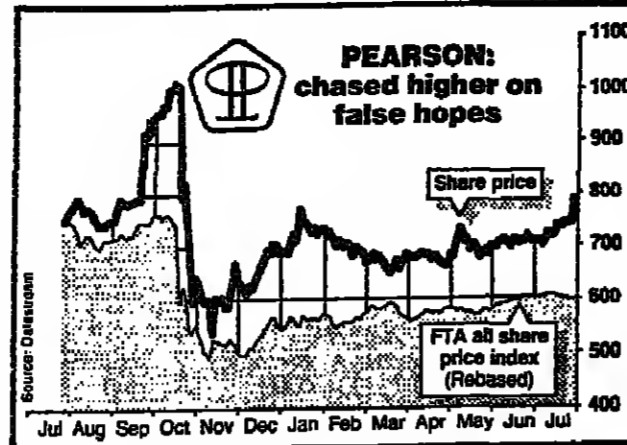
Midland Bank fell by 4p to 425.5p and National Westminster Bank by 6p to 560p after both reported this week.

The rest of the equity market scored small gains in initial trading but failed to hold on to best levels. Another

Note the strength of T Cowie, the car distributor, up 6p at 122p. The word is that the Department of Trade and Industry is about to give the company a clean bill of health following a recent inquiry into certain share dealings. The group is due to unveil figures next Thursday.

rise in European interest rates and a dull start to trading on Wall Street saw prices boil over at the close with the FT-SE 100 index finishing just 0.5 up at 1,841.3, having been 7.3 higher earlier. The narrower FT index of 30 shares reduced a 5.6 lead to close 1.9 up at 1,480.7.

Government securities sported gains of 1/8 at the long end, helped by a strong pound.



Amersham share price to reach the 700p level in the short-term.

Pearson, which publishes the *Financial Times* and whose other interests stretch from Penguin books to the Lazard Bros merchant bank, Royal Doulton china and Madame Tussaud's, responded positively to renewed reports that it was planning to sell its North American oil interests, Whitehall Petroleum. The word is that it could now raise more than double the initial asking price of £50 million and that Elf Aquitaine, the French state-owned oil group, was first in the queue to buy it.

Pearson shares ended the day 32p higher at 774p, having been 50p up at one stage. Hoare Govett, the broker, was responsible for this latest flurry of activity, hoping to pick up stock on behalf of one of its clients.

In the past Hoare has acted on behalf of The News Corporation, the worldwide media group. It was respon-

sible for picking up the bulk of The News Corporation's 20 per cent stake in Pearson.

Its re-appearance in the market yesterday led speculators to assume, wrongly, that The News Corporation was adding to its holding. As a result, market-makers were forced to call the price sharply higher.

Thorn EMI advanced 16p to 649p on a turnover of more than 3 million shares.

There was talk it had sold its troubled Inmos microchip subsidiary. Thorn quickly denied the story.

Reed International, the publishing group, jumped another 20p to 463p on turnover of 4.4 million shares.

One large buyer was bidding

Aitken Humm, the financial services group, rose 2p to 79.5p. Mr John Gunn's British & Commonwealth is said to be staking the company and might bid 130p a share. He is said to have reached agreement with the Saudis to acquire their 23 per cent stake.

460p for stock outside the market and revived stake-building stories.

Hanson, Torres Hoftench, the Spanish paper group, and The News Corporation are all being mentioned as stakeholders.

Yale and Valor soared 19p to 498.5p on a report in *The Times* that Williams Holdings, which holds a 3.9 per cent stake, is keen to make an

Early advance for Dow

Further indications of the Federal Reserve's policy, brokers added.

A few more shares showed gains than falls. Trading was moderate. Pullman rose by 1/2 to 9. It has received a proposal from Forstman Little and Co to acquire all its shares for \$9.25 each. The Dow average fell by 20.57 to 2,053.70 on Wednesday.

| Jul 27        | Jul 26 | Jul 27 | Jul 26 |
|---------------|--------|--------|--------|
| AMR           | 43 1/2 | 43 1/2 | 43 1/2 |
| ASA           | 42 1/2 | 42 1/2 | 42 1/2 |
| Astra Life    | 44 1/2 | 44 1/2 | 44 1/2 |
| Allied Signal | 34 1/2 | 34 1/2 | 34 1/2 |

US BONDS

Current account improvement fails to impress

The current account balance of payments fell to an annual rate of \$91 billion (£52.5 billion) in current prices.

This compared with a deficit of \$126 billion in the fourth quarter of 1987, and \$109 billion in the first quarter of 1988. Thus, in the past two quarters, the US current account deficit has fallen by 28 per cent. In terms of 1982

prices, it has fallen 40 per cent from the peak rate of \$152 billion in the third quarter of 1985.

A completely different impression of the evolution of the US current account balance of payments deficit has thus emerged from the important revisions published by the Commerce Department, going back to 1985.

The importance of the big drop in these negative net exports numbers is that they tend to undermine the dollar pessimists' case, which is that although there is a big improvement in merchandise trade going on, this is being negated by the mounting costs of servicing US foreign debt.

The numbers indicate that, no matter what might be happening to the debt servicing cost components of the

current account, some other items are improving at such a rapid rate as to overwhelm the negative effect of any rising debt servicing costs.

This is a very important conclusion as it relates to the dollar, something that appears to have been overlooked by the currency markets when they marked the dollar down sharply on disappointment that annualized first-quarter

real GNP growth came in at a mere 3.1 per cent.

The bond market was not impressed by the GNP numbers, tending to concentrate on the evidence in those numbers of an annualized inflation rate of about 4 per cent. Turnovers in bonds remain negligible and sentiment is still awful.

ALPHA STOCKS

| Vol '000 | Vol '000 | Vol '000 | Vol '000 |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| ADT      | 2,289    | Ches     | 598      |
| Abbey    | 2,302    | CUI      | 280      |
| AKL-Lyon | 606      | Comstar  | 1,238    |

Connells pays £1.67m for estate agencies

By Our City Staff

Connells Estate Agents is buying nine "barely profitable" agencies outside London for £1.67 million from Perry Group, the more dealer, providing its first foothold in the metropolitan market.

Perry put 12 agencies up for sale after losses of £500,000 in the year to December, includ-

Evered expands with \$39.5m US buy

By Martin Waller

Evered Holdings, the expanding quarrying group, has added a third American building materials company with the \$39.5 million (£22.8 million) cash acquisition of Fidler, a sand, gravel and concrete business based in Indiana.

Fidler operates 13 ready-mix concrete plants and two concrete block making plants.

Profit on target at Astra

By Our City Staff

Astra Holdings, the ammunition and military pyrotechnics group, has met the £6 million forecast made at the time of the acquisition of BMARC, the munitions group, in April, with a pre-tax profit of £6.04 million for the year to last March.

This compares with £1.01 million in the previous year, before the purchase of two US companies, the Walkers Group and Kligons Corporation. Turnover similarly mushroomed, from £11.4 million to £43.6 million.

The BMARC purchase, from Oerlikon, the Swiss group, made Astra the only British-owned maker of munitions apart from Royal Ordnance, which is owned by British Aerospace.

A second interim dividend of 0.52p makes a total for the year of 0.87p - up from 0.25p last time.

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

| Series | Call | Put | Call | Put |
|--------|------|-----|------|-----|
| Astra  | 230  | 45  | 230  | 45  |
| BASA   | 180  | 18  | 180  | 18  |
| BBC    | 300  | 33  | 300  | 33  |

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

| First Dealings | Last Dealings | Last Dealings | For Settlement |
|----------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| July 28        | August 5      | October 27    | November 7     |

Notice to Borrowers

The Interest Rates on all mortgage accounts (excluding Xtraloan accounts) will be increased by 1.7% p.a. For accounts subject to the Mortgage Conditions 1984 or later, this increase relates to the Base Rate.

The new Interest Rates will take effect: On new mortgages and on existing mortgages having roll numbers A/2483000-8 and upwards on 1st August 1988.

On mortgages having roll numbers from A/1756000-9 to A/2482999-9 (both numbers inclusive) on 1st September 1988.

On other mortgages on dates to be notified individually to the borrowers concerned.

Borrowers will be notified appropriately of any changes in their monthly payments.

RECENT ISSUES

|                        |          |
|------------------------|----------|
| Astra                  | 146 - 2  |
| BASA                   | 123      |
| Broadway Land (155p)   | 176      |
| Buckland Aust (110p)   | 125      |
| Butter Gp (150p)       | 157      |
| Cadwell Inv            | 50       |
| Cherwell Gp (145p)     | 169 - 1  |
| Cherwell Power (125p)  | 145 + 1  |
| Coltray (150p)         | 59 + 2   |
| Conroy Port            | 30 + 2   |
| Cory (Horace)          | 138      |
| Eng O Seas Prop (155p) | 138      |
| Green Group (163p)     | 168      |
| Herridge (95p)         | 175 - 10 |
| Herring Son (150p)     | 81       |
| Nuclear (80p)          | 81 - 12  |
| Jackson Group          | 163 - 2  |
| Lincal Group (115p)    | 139      |
| Nat Telecom            | 139      |
| Optim Gp (60p)         | 240 - 2  |
| Palmerton Hedge        | 143 + 3  |
| Saunderson Elec (130p) | 191      |
| Savills (125p)         | 179 - 2  |
| SCRecorp               | 14 - 1   |
| Severfield-R (80p)     | 84 - 1   |
| Sonic Tape (15p)       | 14 - 1   |
| Reycat Shop (140p)     | 152      |
| TGI (130p)             | 144      |
| Tans (John) (85p)      | 85 - 3   |
| Thorntons (120p)       | 130 - 1  |

**HALIFAX**

Any loan must be secured by a mortgage. For written details of mortgage terms, please contact your local office or Halifax Building Society, Trinity Road, Halifax, West Yorks, HX1 2RG.

July 1988

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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Main table containing unit trust information, organized into columns for various fund managers and their respective units. Includes sections for 'UNIT TRUST MANAGERS', 'GENERAL INVESTMENT MANAGERS', 'SPECIFIC INVESTMENT MANAGERS', and 'UNIT TRUSTS'.

UNLISTED SECURITIES

Table of unlisted securities with columns for company name, price, bid, offer, and other financial metrics.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table of investment trusts with columns for trust name, price, bid, offer, and other financial metrics.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Table of foreign exchange rates for various currencies, including Sterling, Deutsche Mark, and others.

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Table of dollar spot rates for various countries like Ireland, Singapore, and Australia.

MONEY MARKETS

Table of money market rates, including Treasury bills and Euro money deposits.

GOLD

Table of gold prices and related market information.

THIRD MARKET

Table of third market trading data, including futures and options.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table of London financial futures prices for various instruments.

COMMODITIES

Table of commodity prices for various goods like oil, sugar, and metals.



CHELMSFORD

FOCUS

A SPECIAL REPORT  
By Michael Horsnell

# Town ready for promotion

When the Queen visits Chelmsford with the Duke of Edinburgh today she will find a town full of confidence — as it celebrates the centenary of being granted borough status

There will be an extra under-current of excitement when the Queen visits Chelmsford today as the town will be granted city status. Local officials and townspeople are wishing for a favourable response to the borough council's petition for the official elevation of this old mid-Essex market town to a city.

The Queen has already given permission for her silhouette to be included in the borough's centenary logo alongside that of Queen Victoria who bestowed borough status on Chelmsford in 1838.

The granting of city status is at the discretion of the Queen, who will mark the centenary by attending a civic service at Chelmsford Cathedral and officially opening a £12.5 million extension to County Hall.

It is Chelmsford's diocesan and administrative importance as the county town of Essex on which its petition has been largely based, backed by its judicial standing as the home of a modern crown court.

But it has much else going for it too, not least as home to Essex County Cricket Club and the Essex Constabulary.

A borough council spokesman said: "When you consider the requirements necessary for city status we seem to fit the bill, so we are certainly keeping our fingers crossed. The Queen's visit is a marvellous boost for the town in the midst of our centenary celebrations but our elevation to a city would be the icing on the cake."

Evidence of man's earliest settlement in Chelmsford, however, goes back to a tribe that made cooking pots from river clay before the Romans established their fort there, and a Neolithic ceremonial monument has been recorded at Springfield Lyons.

Chelmsford became an important town after it was granted its royal charters to hold a weekly market and annual fair in 1199 and 1201. Nowadays it is a thriving town of burgeoning engineering and technological importance at the centre of one of the fastest-growing areas in Europe.

Its population has almost trebled in less than 30 years to 150,000, a rapid expansion which has inevitably damaged its architectural appeal.

Traditionally Chelmsford has competed with the garrison town of Colchester, the oldest recorded town in Britain, for civic pre-eminence in Essex.

Colchester, with its university, port facilities and tourist attractions, has had a stronger image. But the opening today of Chelmsford's huge and attractive development at County Hall, which is one of Essex's largest employers, has given the county town the edge over its rival.

For more than 15 years, the county council has striven to bring together its scattered central departments on one site.

The council, which provides services for a population of nearly 1.5 million, has had offices in no fewer than 21 locations in Chelmsford. The prime consideration was to enable the organization to be brought together on the largest site available: the old County Hall and the adjoining land and property owned by the council in King Edward Avenue.

Work on the five-storey extension began in 1983 and, together with the existing building, it will accommodate more than 2,000 staff. Four floors will be devoted to offices but the ground floor will serve as a new library for Chelmsford. Other features include two covered atria, a new register office and a public restaurant.

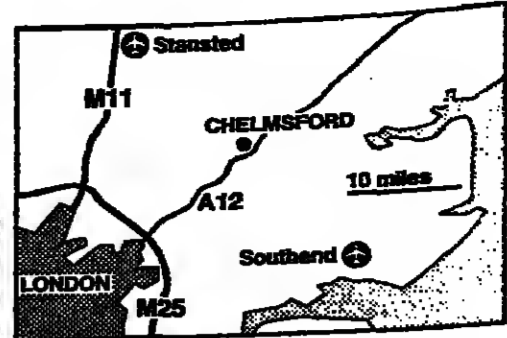
The design — in Portland stone to match several outstanding buildings such as the Shire Hall and Midland Bank in the town centre — will reflect the dignity of a headquarters serving one of the largest counties in the country.

Almost as ambitious as the County Hall development is a major plan to enhance the Essex Institute of Higher Education in Chelmsford — an institution oiled for its innovative links with local and regional employers which, since its reorganization in 1983, has served to boost the town's thriving economy. Already the largest centre for higher education

PHOTOGRAPHS BY BRYN COLTON



Around Chelmsford: top left, the extension to Essex County Hall, which is being officially opened by the Queen today; right, Philip Firth, the mayor, and, left, the Shire Hall



## On the right road

Detractors used to say the best thing to come out of Chelmsford was the A12, provided the motorist could escape the notorious traffic bottleneck at the Army & Navy roundabout.

The town has managed to undo itself within the last two years, however, and a greatly improved road network linking it with London and the flourishing East Anglian container ports has complemented its burgeoning prosperity, environmental improvement and growing strategic importance.

The A12 has been upgraded almost to motorway standard by the long-awaited Chelmsford bypass and this busy road links with the M25 10 miles to the south of the town.

Work on another big road improvement, the Chelmer Valley Route (North), which will effectively form a second bypass for Chelmsford, is to be completed by the spring of 1990.

The £8 million project will link the north of the town with the A130 to Stansted Airport, which is about 20 miles to the north-west, and the M11. Chelmsford is equidistant between the two airports in the county — the rapidly expanding Stansted and Southend. Apart from scheduled and charter flights, both have impact and expert freight handling facilities and air taxi services.

Rail communications have improved with the electrification of the line from Norwich to London's Liverpool Street. Unusually the latter City service, which calls at Ipswich and Colchester, ceases to stop at Chelmsford. Commuters are obliged instead to rely on often overcrowded South-East train whose journeys normally start on the branch lines at Chelms or Harwich Town before linking with the main Norwich line. Trains take 40 minutes to cover as many miles, and only when they are on time.

British Rail is, however, dragging Liverpool Street and Chelmsford Station into the twentieth century. A £1.1 billion redevelopment at Liverpool Street is well under way, and the rebuilding of Chelmsford Station is due for completion in October.

| BRIEFLY         |                            |
|-----------------|----------------------------|
| Population      | 150,000                    |
| Dwellings       | 54,000                     |
| Work-force      | 65,000                     |
| Area            | 34,230 hectares            |
| MP              | Simon Burns (C.)           |
| Local authority | Chelmsford Borough Council |
| Chief executive | R. M. C. Hartley           |

Situated on the A12 between London and Colchester, 45 miles from the capital, Chelmsford had already come a long way before it rose to national prominence recently through Channel 4's Romano-British sitcom, *Chelmsford 123*.

In this the new Governor of Britannia, Aulus Paulinus was banished to the armpit of the Roman Empire for accidentally insulting the Emperor's girlfriend at a banquet and fetched up in Caesaraugus (Chelmsford).

Actually there are those who claim Caesaraugus was Julius Caesar's campaign base in his invasion of 54BC (if you believe that, you'll believe anything). Certainly, its Roman roots have sprung up with renewed vigour with the recent discoveries of a mansion, baths, and splendid silver and gold ceremonial armour.

in the East Anglian region with 12,000 students, the institute will serve with Cambridge College of Arts and Technology on April 1, 1989 to form the Anglia Polytechnic with 20,000 students.

Through a network of consultative committees, employers participate actively in course planning at the institute, as well as development and management, ensuring that students meet the real needs of the community.

This is reflected in the comparative ease with which students obtain full-time employment or higher professional training.

In the most recent survey this year it was found that 99.6 per cent were in employment three months after graduation.

The institute offers primarily postgraduate, degree and professional courses with a wide range of

tailor-made provision for regional employers. Of its present population 1,800 are enrolled on full-time courses and more than 10,000 on part-time and short courses most of which are employer-sponsored, a degree of integration with employers which is probably unmatched in Britain.

In addition to a large range of open courses to which employers have subscribed, tailor-made programmes have been devised for a range of national, regional and local companies including Ford, Marconi, EEV, Norcross, Burroughs, Bechtams, BDH, British Gas and Eastern Electricity.

Further, in cooperation with Essex County Council, the institute was responsible for the formation of the Essex Small Business Centre and Essex Export Agency.

A spokesman for the institute

said: "The merger will create an institution with an extremely broad spread of disciplines from pure sciences and arts to technology, law and management. During this period of great change and development the strong commitment to economic-support services will not only continue but it will be enhanced."

With its historical background, its judicial and diocesan standing, and its administrative, educational and commercial advance, Chelmsford offers a strong portfolio for elevation to city status.

But meanwhile it intends to enjoy its centenary. The cathedral, whose principal claim to fame is the magnificent flush work south porch, has already celebrated with its annual music festival.

Two mock battles are to be staged by the Civil War Society

during the August Bank Holiday weekend in Hylands Park, a 435-acre estate south west of Chelmsford at the centre of which is the Georgian mansion built in 1728 for Sir John Comyns.

Other events are being staged at the Civic Theatre and the Riverside Ice and Leisure Centre, a huge multi-purpose centre which only opened its doors last year.

The Mayor of Chelmsford, Philip Firth, said: "The last 100 years have, of course, seen many changes in the town which now has a rapidly expanding population and thriving economy. My theme during this centenary year is 'The past with pride and the future with hope.'"

"In the future we aim to stimulate interest in Chelmsford further. After all, as the county town, it is at the heart of Essex."

## Where high-tech has its origins

With the arrival of Guglielmo Marconi from Bologna in 1896 and the establishment three years later of his Wireless Telegraph & Signal Company in Hall Street, Chelmsford, the first radio factory in the world, the town lays claim to being the birthplace of the electronics and communications industries.

Chelmsford, faithful to the memory of the Italian genius whose invention led to the arrest of Dr Crippen and his mistress Ethel Le Neve, after a wireless message from SS Manrose to Scotland Yard in 1910, remains home to what is now the huge GEC-Marconi Electronics Group, which employs 10,000 in and around the town.

Pioneers of satellite communications, advanced military radar systems and laser technology, the group's communications, radar and marine divisions have long kept the name of its famous founder at the head of the field.

In an intensely competitive market it suffers its setbacks, evidenced by the 90 redundancies announced earlier this month by Marconi Radar when it reduced its work-force to 2,300.

But the group is still Chelmsford's premier employer and, prompted by a staff of more than 1,000 at the Marconi Research Centre, is likely to remain so.

Dominated by big-name employers such as Marconi, Chelmsford is among the fastest growing industrial and commercial areas in Europe with an unemployment rate which fell to 4.2 per cent this month, among the lowest in Essex and testimony to the county town's buoyancy.

The local work-force of 65,000 is split 70 per cent in service industries and 25 per cent in manufacturing, although a growing white-collar army commutes to London.



Radio revolution: Marconi, with an early apparatus

Inspired by the revolutionary spirit of its most celebrated adopted son, the town has engendered other world leaders in industry.

Chelmsford is the birthplace and headquarters of English Electric Valve, another GEC company, now Europe's leading electron tube manufacturer whose products serve the diverse needs of aviation, broadcasting, defence, medicine, industry, science and shipping throughout the world.

Employing about 2,000 people in Chelmsford, EEV has achieved an impressive growth record with annual sales now exceeding £70 million of which 50 per cent is exported.

The company's success was built on wartime development of microwave tubes such as magnetrons for radar. Today the name EEV is synonymous with microwave tubes, travelling wave tubes, duplexers and klystrons, broadcast tubes and a comprehensive range of electro-optical devices including image-intensifiers.

Though the widest range of high technology is developed and manufactured in Chelmsford, older industries retain their place in its prosperity.

on which the town conveniently sits.

Since the early 1980s Essex County Council has been actively encouraging the growth of smaller businesses while the multi-nationals and other major employers grew to give Essex one of the quickest growth rates of any county in the United Kingdom since the 1950s.

An employment promotion unit was created in the county planning department in Chelmsford in 1982.

This liaises with local, national and international organizations to promote Essex as a place to develop, invest or relocate.

A business guide in five languages and a bi-monthly list of available commercial and industrial properties are published, expert seminars are held throughout the county and exhibitions mounted at ports and airports as well as overseas.

Assistance to small firms is given by sponsorship of the county's ten enterprise agencies, by providing space for first-time exhibitors at the Essex Show and by giving support to the Essex Co-operative Development Agency.

The Essex Business Centre at Chelmsford in 1986 was re-launched by the county council. It provides a free counselling service on all aspects of business including marketing, management, staff training and exporting, seminars seminars focusing on small firms and runs courses in business management.

Commerce and industry will celebrate the town's centenary with a special four-day exhibition, the Chelmsford 100 Show, from September 7 at Central Park, Chelmsford. Organized on behalf of Chelmsford and District Chamber of Trade, Commerce and Industry by the exhibition company Westrade Fairs, it is designed to generate new business opportunities.

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FOCUS

CHELMSFORD

Home team in the millionaire league

The county cricket team is enjoying financial success

Essex County Cricket Club - headquarters in Chelmsford - is the most successful county side in the country over the last decade with four championships and five limited-overs titles bringing an unrivalled glint to its trophies cabinet.

Four members of this season's Britannic Assurance championship-chasing side - Graham Gooch, Neil Foster, Derek Pringle and John Childs - were selected for the England squad for the Fourth Test at Headingley against the West Indies.

Peter Edwards, the club's secretary-general manager, said: "It's a county record and a marvellous honour for us to have this many players good enough to be selected for England although their absence on Test duty caused Essex a few selection problems."

Complementing its pre-eminence on the field is the county's extraordinary financial success in

recent years. Essex CCC is now widely considered commercial leader of the game excluding the Test-ground counties at Lord's, the Oval, Headingley, Old Trafford, Edgbaston and Trent Bridge.

By the end of last season the club's net assets exceeded the magical figure of £1 million for the first time and its income was not far short of a similar amount.

The county ground itself was honoured with the staging of a World Cup match, the tie between Australia and India in 1983. The Queen's visit for Chelmsford's centenary today is followed tomorrow by the arrival of the West Indies for a three-day game.

Next season, after protracted planning negotiations with the local council, the county ground will have a new £200,000 entrance behind imposing wrought-iron

gates. Money has also been heavily invested in the club's indoor cricket school - said to be the best outside Lord's - whose throughput of enthusiastic young cricketers continues to rise annually as less and less cricket is played in secondary schools.

Success has not come easily to Essex. For a century the land of the three scimitars was considered the Cinderella county, on and off the field.

Formed on January 14, 1876, under the chairmanship of James Round, MP for Colchester, who became its first captain, the club chose Breatwood as its headquarters.

The poor support it received in such a backwater soon forced it to move to Leyton in east London, which remained headquarters for almost 50 years. But with financial

pressures persisting, it was decided the only way to survive was to take cricket out into the county to serve the then rapidly expanding centres away from London. Thus, like a travelling circus (marquees, moveable seating, scoreboard and all), the club played out its home fixtures list at Southend, Colchester, Ilford, Westcliff, Romford, Leyton and Clacton, as well as Chelmsford where its offices were established.

This itinerancy persisted until 1967 when the present ground at Chelmsford was bought with the help of an interest-free loan from Warwickshire CCC, which was repaid over 10 years.

The Gypsy spirit persists with festival county cricket weeks at Valentine's Park, Ilford, Southchurch Park, Southend and Castle Park, Colchester. The facil-

ities at these venues are a sporting universe from the modern arena at Chelmsford but a glorious reminder of the days when the county's famous double-decker buses transported the scoreboard and the ladies' toilets from ground to ground.

Though Essex fielded many fine sides under Pearce, Insole, Bailey and Taylor, the club's travelling circus act always hampered Essex as championship contenders. It was not until 1979 that history was defied.

Mr Edwards said: "If trophies are a measure of success it was 103 years before we became successful, thanks to a perfectly balanced team. But we have always played entertaining cricket, always had marvellous supporters and always a wonderful club atmosphere."

Perhaps you shouldn't necessarily measure success by the number of trophies you win."



Graham Gooch: Club stalwart, England regular



Peter Edwards: We have a wonderful atmosphere

GEC in Chelmsford challenging the frontiers of technology



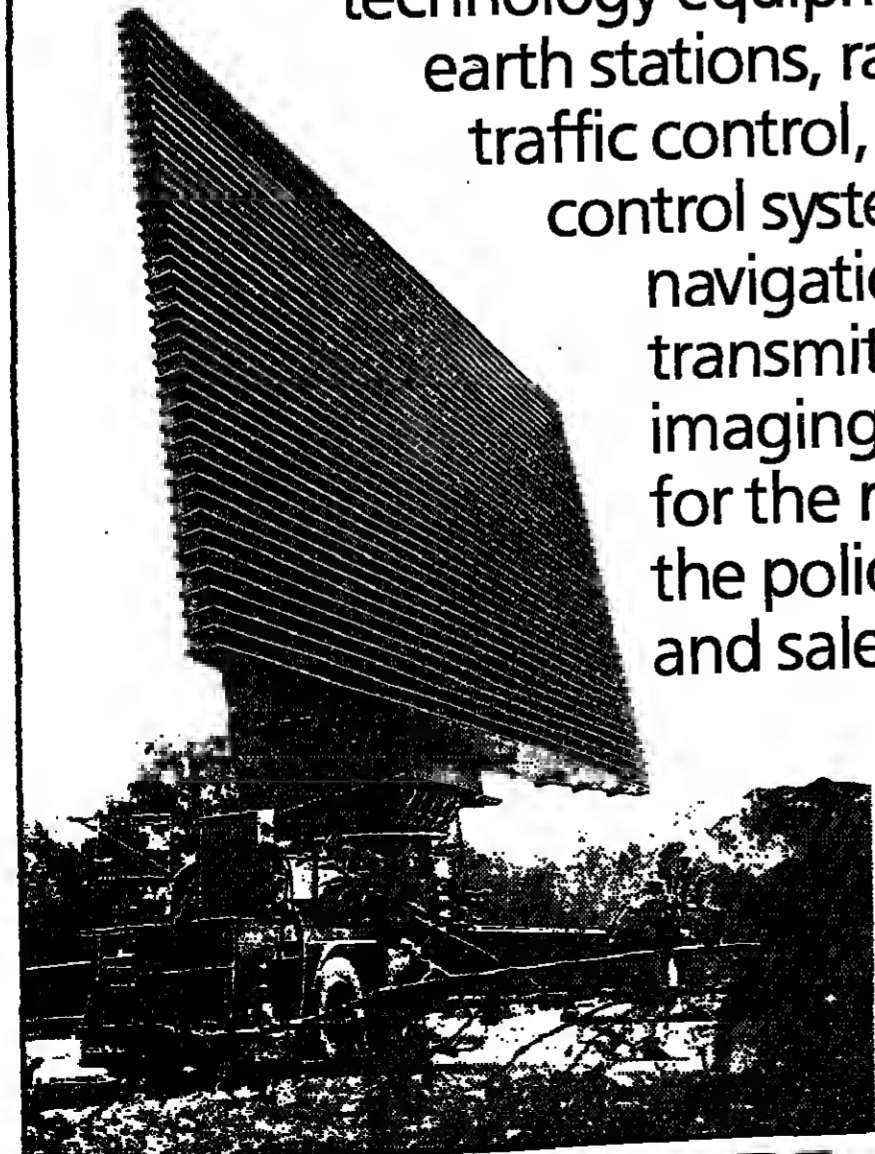
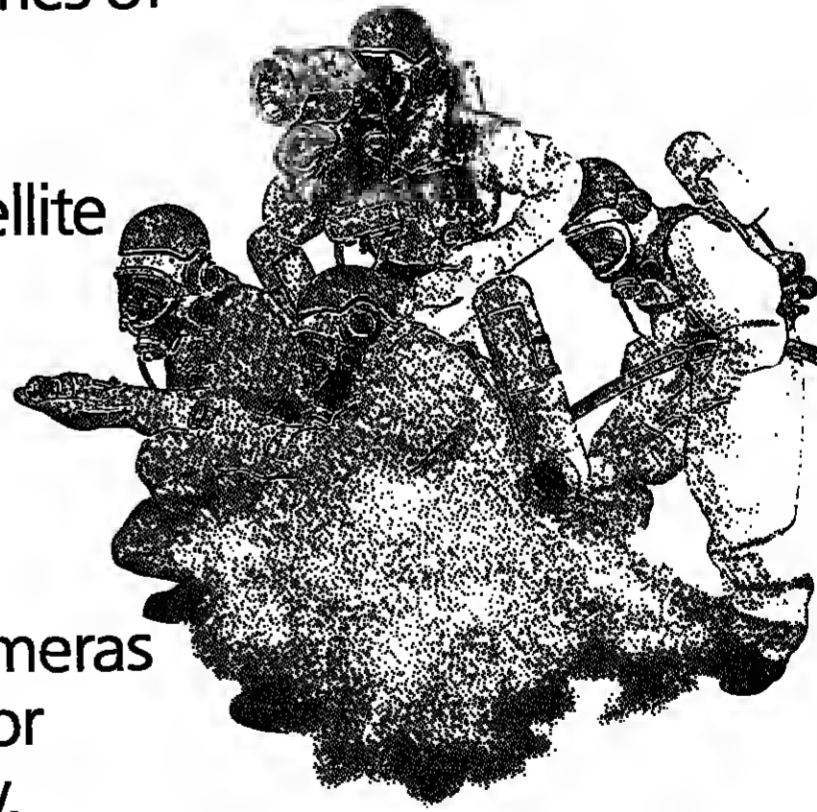
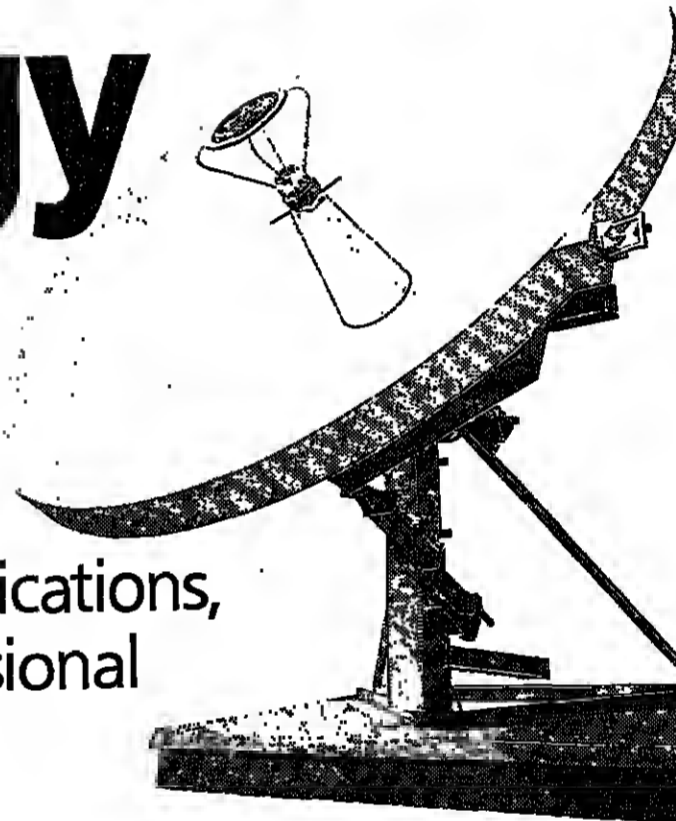
Chelmsford may not look much like a frontier town. Nonetheless, this is where you'll find the frontiers of communications, radar, information technology and professional electronic tubes.

The first outpost was established by Guglielmo Marconi back in 1899. And the GEC-Marconi companies there, as well as EEV another GEC company, have been pushing back the boundaries of

electronics ever since.

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